

Board of Community Health
Legislative Committee Meeting
January 13, 2005

The Board of Community Health Legislative Committee held its meeting at the Harry S. Downs Center for Continuing Education, Clayton College and State University, Morrow, Georgia.

Committee member Richard Holmes and DCH Legislative and External Affairs Director Laura Jones were present.

Others present: Clay Huckaby, Brian Crevasse, Tish Towns, Michael Spivey, M. Lindsay, Sherri Douthie, Kerry Loudermilk, Cal Calhoun, Julie Johnson, Brad Borum and Jon Howell.

Mr. Holmes called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the Legislative Committee Meeting. Mr. Holmes then turned the meeting over to Laura Jones.

Ms. Jones said that in October the Department submitted to the Governor its legislative proposal for consideration. The Department plans to introduce two bills relating to Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids and State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP).

Items contained in the Medicaid bill mainly focus on PeachCare and managed care initiative. To achieve greater efficiency in the PeachCare for Kids program, the Department felt it would be beneficial to move certain benefit design authority to the DCH Board. These would include:

- a. Establishing the income threshold for the PeachCare program and determine if premiums for children under six years of age will be necessary;
- b. Change the statute to allow the Department to enroll PeachCare members in managed care;
- c. Change the statute to allow access to the Department of Labor wage data to verify family income; and
- d. Create a provider fee or quality assessment fee for participating CMOs.

The SHBP legislation includes:

- a. A change in the statute to combine funds of the public school teachers, public school employees and state employees;
- b. A change in the statute to legally compel employers to make appropriate payments to the SHBP and allow the Department to suspend coverage if employers are not complying with the law;
- c. Legislation to extend past the twelve-month limit to recover payment of claims in eligibility and coordination of benefits issues; and
- d. Introduce legislation to allow public school retirees to remit premiums on a monthly rather than quarterly basis.

Mr. Holmes and Ms. Jones entertained several questions and concerns from the public. They include: will changes to the PeachCare for Kids program require a state plan amendment; several persons raised questions about how provider fees would operate; and concerns were raised about the recovery of SHBP claims regarding eligibility and coordination of benefit issues.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Richard Holmes
Member, Legislative Committee