

MARRCH Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Heidi Kammer opened the committee meeting with a welcome along with introductions.

Jan Arleth from the Department of Human Services (DHS) spoke to the committee regarding the department's ICD-10 updates. Jan stated that the deadline for ICD-10 implementation is approaching quickly. Health care providers need to prepare at a systems level for the conversion from ICD-9 to ICD-10 codes, which includes claims systems, prior authorization, service agreements, and electronic health records. By the spring of 2014, providers should also be prepared for the start of ICD-10 code testing.

Dana Farley from the Department of Health (MDH) introduced himself to the committee in his new role at the department. Dana mentioned the department's focus on binge drinking, this being one of MDH Commissioner Ehlinger's prime focus. Dana also focused on the department's study on the proposed alcohol sales tax as well as the potential introduction in the legislature of medical marijuana legislation.

The meeting with DHS in November was an issue the committee discussed at length. Proposed DHS changes for 2014 include the use of scanned fingerprints for all background studies for criminal record searches, the use of Social Security numbers for unique id verification, and the use of FBI record checks for all background studies with automated updates of criminal information from other states if new crimes are committed.

The MARRCH Public Policy Committee addressed these proposed changes at the request of the department. While the majority of the potential changes were supported, a number of members of the committee expressed concern with a few provisions, including the mandated use of FBI record checks for those working in the substance abuse field due to the over-intrusiveness of how it would be implemented. A number of Public Policy Committee members also expressed interest in using these changes as an opportunity to change laws on the exempting of healthcare professionals based on past criminal activity. Most members believe that these restrictions unnecessarily and unfairly disqualifies quality employees from working in important fields, including chemical health.

Patrick Lobejko discussed the recent unveiling of the state's economic forecast. The November forecast shows the state having a budget surplus of \$825 million. It is expected that the schools would be paid back while the rest will likely fill holes in funding from past reductions as well as possible tax cuts.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am.