

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE COMPROMISES ON THE FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES (DHHS) BUDGET

Here is a summary of some of the cuts included in the compromise:

Enrollment in the Childless Adult waiver program will be frozen. (This is also known as the non cat or noncategorical program.) Spending in the program will be reduced from an annual budget cap of \$80.3 million to \$40 million. The compromise protects coverage for approximately 17,000 individuals currently on the program but prevents the 16,000 individuals on the waiting list from getting on MaineCare at least through June, 2013. Some further cuts may be made next year if this budget target is not reached.

• **Low-income working parents with incomes above 133% of poverty (\$2,127/month for a family of 3) will lose their coverage** Approximately 14,000 parents will lose MaineCare coverage as of October 1, 2012. Some of these parents may be eligible for some months of "transitional" MaineCare benefits.

• **Some MaineCare services were cut. These cuts are likely to go into effect this spring:**

- Vision services: routine eye exams will now be available once every 3 years instead of every 2 years as currently allowed;
- Chiropractic services: limited to 12 visits per year;
- Smoking cessation services: 50% of funding for Smoking Cessation services has been cut. This will likely mean that some products that help people quit will not be available;
- Methadone Treatment/clinics: the bundled weekly treatment rate was reduced from \$70 to \$60 per week;
- Targeted Case Management: MaineHousing will provide the money to MaineCare for one year to pay for Targeted Case Management for people who are homeless. This is expected to lead to a cut of \$300,000 to programs funded through the MaineHousing HOME fund;
- Reimbursement rates: 10% provider rate reduction for the following services:
 - + Occupational and physical therapy
 - + Podiatry
 - + Adult family Care;
- Brand-Name Prescriptions: Limit to only 2 brand-name prescription drugs per month. Additional brand name drugs may be available if your medical provider says that they are medically necessary for you (the current limit is 4 per month);
- Hospital Services: Limit to 5 inpatient hospital stays per year; and
- Limits on certain pain medications: 45-day limit on certain pain medications (opioids), unless prescribed to treat cancer, HIV or AIDS, or if a person is in the hospital or receiving Hospice care. For people who have been treated for pain with one of these medications for a year or more, this cut will not go into effect until September 1, 2012. For all others, it will likely go into effect sometime this spring. (This limit may not be allowed under federal law. Look for additional information in future mailings).

For more information or questions please contact Carol directly at: (207) 622-5767