

South Dakota Legislative Summer Study on Sales Tax Exemptions

The Legislative Committee conducting a summer study on sales tax exemptions is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, August 23rd, starting at 10 a.m. and continuing on through Wednesday, August 24th. There will be **public testimony** taken on August 23rd and 24th.

At their previous meeting, they identified \$80 million in exemptions that they will examine further. The outcome of this continued examination is uncertain at this time. Any recommendation to the full Legislature will require passage of bill(s) in both chambers and the governor's signature to take place.

A related note, it has been reported that state revenue is in better shape than had been anticipated. Medicaid utilization is coming in under projections both in the number enrolled and in use of Medicaid. Sales tax revenues are also coming in higher than had been anticipated.

South Dakota Department of Human Services Agency Review

The Legislative Committee conducting the Department of Human Services Agency Review will hold its first meeting on August 31st in Room 413 of the Capitol. Senator Jean Hunhoff is the committee chair, and the meeting is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m.

The agenda includes:

- A historical perspective of the sunset process
- Opening presentation of the Department of Human Services by Secretary Laurie Gill and department personnel
- Committee Discussion
- Planning for Future Meetings
- Staff Directives

The Department presentation will include:

- Introductions
- Overview of mission, goals and structure
- History
 - Budget: funding sources
 - Structure
 - Staff; turnover rates
 - Statutory changes
 - Recent reorganization
- Programs
 - Services provided
 - Number of persons served in each program
 - Participation trend within each program over the last 5 years
 - Funding sources for each program
 - Any measures of the level of satisfaction among those served by each program
- Local Offices
 - Locations
 - Staffing levels; office space utilized
 - Services provided
- Community-based programs that work in coordination with the department
 - Program names and locations
 - Services provided
 - Level/description of state oversight
 - Growth trends
 - Cost of programs; costs per person served
 - Summary of any verified complaints from persons served
- Suggestions to facilitate the sunset process including any proposed substantive statute changes.

COALITION staff will be present at this and subsequent meetings of the committee. We will be providing updates on the meeting outcomes. This initial meeting does not include time for public testimony.

Medicaid Solutions Workgroup Home and Community Based Services Sub-Committee

This group met on July 28th and 29th at the King's Inn Hotel & Convention Center in Pierre. Their next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 22nd.

The Medicaid Solutions Workgroup has three sub-committees — Home & Community Based Services; Patient Centered Care; and Pharmacy. COALITION Executive Director, Shelly Pfaff, participates on the Home & Community Based Services Sub-Committee.

During the July meeting, the HCBS Sub-Committee reviewed a listing of nine long-term care options available under Medicaid or the Affordable Care Act. In doing so, the sub-committee members narrowed down the list to five possible options that might assist in containing Medicaid costs and providing needed services to those who must rely on Medicaid for their healthcare needs.

The five possible options are:

Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration Program

Community First Choice Option 1915(k)

Program for All Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)

PACE Demonstration for Mental Health

Agency Model DOM CARE

The HCBS Sub-Committee will be exploring these five options more closely at their August meeting, including how other states have made use of them to serve their citizens.



Deborah Bowman receives the Center for Disabilities' Distinguished Service Award from Center Director, Judy Struck

**Coalition's 2011
Annual Membership Meeting
to be held on**

**Thursday, September 15th
3:45 pm to 5 pm
at the**

AmericInn of Chamberlain



Black Hills Special Services Cooperative Autism Program Staff accepts the Center for Disabilities' Collaboration Award from Center Director Judy Struck