



## **Health *Matters* Emergency Special Session Edition (Hold Medicaid Harmless!)**

September 19, 2008

- [1. Emergency Meeting of Utah Medicaid Policy Partnership & Family Investment Coalition on September 24<sup>th</sup>, noon-1pm at AUCH to plan strategy for next week's Special Session](#)
- [2. Monthly Meeting, October 1: Recap of Special Session Budget cuts, obesity awareness presentation by special guest Dr. David Sundwall.](#)
- [3. Last Chance to Register for Health System Reform Discussions in 13 Sites Across Utah](#)
- [4. A Talented Artist's Case for Health System Reform at Tonight's Gallery Stroll...](#)

### **1. Emergency Meeting of Utah Medicaid Policy Partnership (UMPP) and Family Investment Coalition (FIC) to plan strategy for next week's Special Session**

UMPP and the FIC will jointly meet **September 24 from noon to 1:30pm at Association for Utah Community Health or AUCH (860 E. 4500 S., Suite 206. Call-in option is also available: (866) 491-2995, access # 745522.**

Governor Huntsman has called a special session of the legislature next week to trim \$200 million from the state budget. This is likely to mean cuts of between 2% and 3% from Medicaid's budget. Read UHPP's press release [here](#).

We must work this week to educate legislators on the important role that Medicaid plays in strengthening our economy and what cost containment alternatives the state can use to trim costs from our Medicaid budget.

### **2. Monthly Meeting, October 1—Recap of Special Session Budget cuts and more**

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, the "Monthly Meeting" with the Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Workforce Services (DWS) will take a close look at ramifications of the special session and what services and programs are at risk. **We will be meeting October 1st from 1:00-4:00pm at the Department of Workforce Services, 1385 South State St., Room 157.**

DOH portion of Monthly Meeting [DRAFT Agenda](#)

- Recap of the Legislature's Special Session and budget cuts
- Dr. David Sundwall will present on the obesity pandemic
- Department of Health will present on the history and roles of the Pharmacy and

Therapeutics (P&T) Committee and Drug Utilization Review Board (DUR).

- DUR prior authorization—The Department will provide an update on how DUR prior-authorization approval is being communicated to pharmacies.

### 3. **Last Chance to Register for Health Reform Discussions in 13 Sites Across Utah...**

As part of the Health System Reform Task Force, input is being collected from five stakeholder workgroups: Hospitals, Insurers, Practitioners, Businesses and the Community. As co-conveners of the Community workgroup, the United Way of Salt Lake and the Utah Health Policy Project invite you to take part in a very important statewide discussion about health reform. Recently we held a very successful satellite conference in 5 sites around the state. Thanks to the Association for Utah Community Health, **we are pleased to expand the discussion to several 13 sites** on Sept 23.

Each workgroup has been asked to generate a proposal for reform. A sub-committee of the Community workgroup has been developing a proposal with the guidance of community feedback. The revised community workgroup proposal, along with responses to collected feedback and the meeting agenda will be sent to participants one week in advance of the September 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Please take a few minutes to review these documents prior to the meeting. This will allow us up to “dig down” deeper into the issues that matter most. We strongly encourage you to participate in this exciting opportunity to learn more about our state's health care reform efforts and to voice your feedback. *These reforms are about all of us.* Now is the time to bring YOUR voice into the health care reform debate!

**What: Community Workgroup ‘Satellite’ Meeting**

**When: September 23, 2008 4:00-6:00 PM (You must RSVP: space is very limited)**

**Where: 13 locations** (*details below*). Reservations will be 1<sup>st</sup> come, 1<sup>st</sup> served: seating is very limited. Click on the link below to register:

1. [Salt Lake 1: University of Utah Health Sciences Building \(HSEB\)](#)
2. [Salt Lake 2: Association for Utah Community Health or AUCH](#)
3. [Logan: Bear River Local Health Department](#)
4. [Ogden: Midtown Community Health Center](#)
5. [Tooele: Tooele County Health Department](#)
6. [Provo: Mountainlands Community Health Center](#)
7. [St. George: Community Health Center of St. George](#)
8. [Blanding: Utah Navajo Health Systems, Inc. Blanding Family Practice](#)
9. [Monument Valley: UNHS, Inc. Monument Valley Community](#)

[Health Center](#)

10. [Montezuma Creek: UNHS, Inc. Montezuma Creek Community Health Center](#)
11. [Richfield: Central Utah Local Health Department](#)
12. [Heber City: Wasatch Local Health Department](#)
13. [Vernal: Tri-County Local Health Department](#)

If you have any questions, send email to [stacey@healthpolicyproject.org](mailto:stacey@healthpolicyproject.org).

4. Talented Artist's Case for Health System Reform TONIGHT at Gallery Stroll

On May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2008, just after his 31<sup>st</sup> birthday, Sean Hennefer was diagnosed with Follicular Lymphoma, a rare form of cancer. Sean could not get health insurance through his job as a private aide for the elderly. Knowing how important it is to have coverage, he applied for insurance on the individual market. He was denied because of an undiagnosed lump in his throat. To rule out any serious issues, Sean visited a specialist. This led him to his current situation: A cancer patient without health insurance.

While battling radiation and the overwhelming stress of having cancer, Sean has been doing his best to get through it all without claiming financial bankruptcy.

Sean is a gifted artist (*see snapshots of his work below*). He has been drawing since childhood and received formal art training and an MFA from the University of Utah. Unable to work full time during his treatment, Sean has been painting more and promoting his work in hopes to create a second source of income to combat the barrage of medical bills.

As a contributor to the Storybank and advocate with UHPP, Sean is hopeful that reforms will make it possible for him to have insurance coverage in the future. Sean's prognosis is good. However, he will need decent, affordable coverage to stay on the path to recovery.

Sean will be a featured artist in September and October's [Gallery Stroll](#) at Café Niche, 779 East 300 South, Salt Lake City. The stroll falls on the third Friday of every month and opens this evening, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. [www.seanhennefer.com](http://www.seanhennefer.com)



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