

UTAH HEALTH POLICY PROJECT

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MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

Today's Date: December 7, 2011

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Salt Lake City – Join Utah Health Policy Project for the release of the Governor's Budget

What: Governor's Budget Release

When: Friday, December 9, 2011 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Where: Governor's Board Room, Capitol Building

- With significant new revenue projected for the coming year and beyond, now is the time for Utah policy makers to fully fund Medicaid services, particularly health care that is an investment in preventing more serious and costly conditions.
- A prime example of these services is dental care for Medicaid enrolled adult Utahns.
- According to the Institute of Medicine, poor oral health often goes hand in hand with cardiovascular disease, diabetes, respiratory disease, and adverse pregnancy outcomes. (<http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2011/Improving-Access-to-Oral-Health-Care-for-Vulnerable-and-Underserved-Populations.aspx>)
- Utah Medicaid spent more than \$103 million on the treatment of cardiovascular diseases alone in Medicaid enrollees in 2007, according to the Chronic Disease Cost Calculator developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and RTI International. (<http://www.ncsl.org/default.aspx?tabid=17966>)

Utah Health Policy Project staff will be present to answer questions about the Governor's budget and how it impacts Utah's pursuit of access to quality health care for all. With enough notice, we can also introduce members of the media to individuals in need of Medicaid dental benefits.

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