

Governor Herbert says closed meetings on Medicaid expansion do not violate the law

Video: <http://www.clipsyndicate.com/video/play/5719591>

Link: <http://www.good4utah.com/story/d/story/governor-herbert-says-closed-meetings-on-medicaid/36752/CKUSFB38QEKi2zMXIQAOjA>

Thursday, April 16, 2015

ABC-4



Salt Lake City, Utah- (ABC 4 Utah) – Governor Gary Herbert is defending closed door meetings on Medicaid expansion.

He gave us an update on the debate during his monthly news conference Thursday at KUED.

The governor says they are at a stage in which they need to be able to be frank and talk openly.

He and five others are hashing out a solution for thousands of Utahns who are stuck with no option for health insurance, because of a flaw in the Affordable Care Act.

The group is meeting to discuss the parameters acceptable to the federal government and what they would like to accomplish with medicaid expansion.

This ahead of a trip to Washington DC to meet with HHS Secretary, Sylvia Burwell.

The governor says cost is a big concern and they are trying to work out a cap whether it be the Healthy Utah plan or another alternative to medicaid expansion.

He says in time the meetings will be open to the public.

“This is a group that is not subject to open meeting laws, so we are not violating any laws. I recognize the public’s need to know and really to help support us to come together. And having the public input and understanding what we are talking about in the discussion I think is important.”

The governor says the public will be provided with a forum to comment, possibly a website.

The group has a self imposed deadline of July 31, 2015 to come to an agreement.