

Health Matters

Utah Health Policy Project

healthpolicyproject.org



What We Believe...

Thursday marks the halfway point between the end of the legislative session in March and the self-imposed deadline of July 31st for the “[Committee of Six](#)” to find a sustainable solution to Utah’s coverage gap. Ten weeks remain for Gov. Herbert to work out a deal with Speaker Greg Hughes and the remaining committee of six.

The good news is that lawmakers thrive on deadlines, often debating and passing dozens of bills during the final hours of a legislative session.

The bad news is that July 31st isn’t the first self-imposed deadline to solve Utah’s coverage gap. Missed opportunities fill the 130 weeks that have elapsed since the Utah legislature first addressed Medicaid expansion in the fall of 2012.


Still, Utah’s consideration of this crucial issue has matured since the days when people still doubted the existence of the coverage gap.

For example, here are five common-ground statements that just about everyone engaged in this debate can agree on:

- 1) The coverage gap exists in Utah and affects 53,000 adults and their families
- 2) The coverage gap prevents people from seeing providers and receiving necessary medical care
- 3) Utah adults caught in the coverage [have died](#) because of their lack of access to care
- 4) Utah’s decision should be guided by the most accurate enrollment and cost projections available

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Read the full calendar ([link](#))

Tuesday, May 19, 2015
United Way of Salt Lake
Community Hangout on
Medicaid Expansion
Panelists: UHPP’s RyLee
Curtis, Nate Checketts
(DOH), and Rep. Becky
Edwards (R-West Bountiful)
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Watch here: ([link](#))

Thursday, May 21, 2015
*Doing the Math: How Smart
States are Saving Lives and
Money by Closing Coverage
Gaps*
Location: Westminster
College - Gore Business
School Auditorium
Time: 6:30pm
Address: 1840 South 1300
East

5) Any solution to Utah's coverage gap must be fiscally sustainable

Finding common ground is a good starting point. But the previous statements only define the scope of the problem and a general framework for addressing it. None of these statements suggest realistic guidelines for solving Utah's coverage gap.

As a result, here is a list of **Four Principles**—based on Utah's own research and findings—that should guide a solution to Utah's Coverage Gap:

Read the principles [here](#)



Navigator

Ask a Navigator

Dear Navigator: I am about to change jobs and I will lose my health insurance. Can I sign up for new health insurance on healthcare.gov this year?

Read the answer [here](#)



"We live in the coverage gap"

Meet Todd and his young family in this powerful video from Kaiser Family Foundation about the vital role of Medicaid and the danger of Utah's Coverage Gap.

Watch it [here](#)

Parking: Free parking located in garage underneath Dumke Athletic Field
Map [\(link\)](#) [\(pdf\)](#)
Presented by the Utah Academy of Family Physicians

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Organization: Health Care Roundtable
Location: Utah Capitol – Senate (West) Building, Olmsted Room [\(map\)](#)
Time: 1:15pm-2:15pm
Contact: RyLee Curtis [\(email\)](#)
Information: Get added to Friday Digest Email by contacting RyLee Curtis [\(email\)](#)

Wednesday, August 19, 2015

This is the most likely day for special session on the Medicaid Expansion solution
Location: Utah Capitol [\(map\)](#)
Time: TBD
Note: Wear red and sit in the gallery for the House of Representatives
More information: Contact Bill Tibbitts at Crossroads Urban Center, [\(email\)](#) 801-364-7765
Sign up for the Facebook event [\(link\)](#)

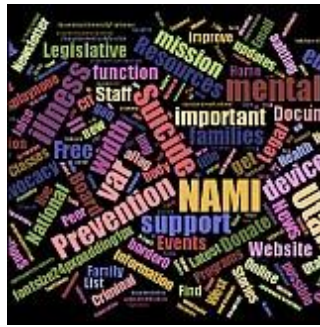
Read the full calendar [\(link\)](#)



Doing the Math

This Thursday night at Westminster College a bipartisan group of Colorado lawmakers will explain what happened after they closed their state's coverage gap by expanding Medicaid.

Read more [here](#)



Mental health is healthcare, too

Some Utahns have rates of mental illness and substance use disorders 2x the rest of the population. They are also Utahns living in the coverage gap.

Read more [here](#)



10% of What?

If Utah expands Medicaid, the state is on the hook for 10% of the coverage costs. Some claim we don't know what it will cost. But it turns out we do know... and more.

Find out [here](#)

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