



Tuesday Morning Memo

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

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Committee Deliberates Scope of Proposed Medicaid Audit

The Joint Legislative Committee on Audit held a hearing on January 13 to discuss the scope of a proposed audit of Wisconsin's Medicaid program. Janice Mueller, the state auditor, provided testimony and answered questions, as did Department of Health Services Secretary Karen Timberlake. Several other entities, mainly representatives of providers of Medicaid services, also provided testimony.

The discussion related to the Medicaid audit lasted over three hours. Members of the committee were not in agreement about what would be the most effective scope of the audit. Some wanted a comprehensive audit of the entire Medicaid program (acute/primary and long-term care). Others argued that the scope of the audit should focus on specific programs (BadgerCare, Family Care, etc.). From the testimony of the provider representatives, two areas of focus seemed to be repeated: the need to get a better handle on funding and expenses related to Family Care and the need to better manage chronic diseases.

State auditor Mueller testified that the audit would be a major undertaking and would take close to a year to complete. The committee plans to vote on a proposed scope of the audit at the next meeting of the Joint Legislative Committee on Audit on January 27.

To see archived video of the January 13 committee hearing, go to:

http://www.wiseye.org/wisEye_programming/ARCHIVES-jointcommittees.html#3020

From that page, click on the January 13, 2010 Joint Audit Committee tab. A warning: The discussion on the Medicaid audit takes up the first three hours of the hearing. If you open the video in Windows Media Player, you can adjust the speed so that the video plays at twice the actual speed. One can still clearly hear all of the testimony in half the time!

Also, to see a document from the state auditor related to the possible scope of the Medicaid audit, go to:

<http://www.arc-wisconsin.org/resources/medicaudauditscope11.pdf>

The co-chairs of the Joint Legislative Committee on Audit, Sen. Kathleen Vinehout (D-Alma) and Sen. Peter Barca (D-Kenosha) requested input that will help them get a better idea of what the scope of the audit should be. They can be contacted at:

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Campaigns: And They Are Off!

Several candidates have begun whirlwind campaign tours. For updates, please visit The Arc-Wisconsin website at:

<http://www.arc-wisconsin.org>