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Comparison of MO HealthNet Proposals: Governor’s Recommendations vs. Senate Bill 577 (Shields & Gibbons)

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This chart provides a brief analysis of how the Governor’s recommendations for MO HealthNet (December 7, 2006) compares to the MO HealthNet program as described in Senate Bill 577 introduced on February 22, 2007, by Senator Charles Shields (R) and Senator Michael Gibbons (R). This analysis does not include full descriptions of each component of the MO HealthNet proposals, but it highlights the major provisions of both. There are several similarities between these two proposals. However, neither the Governor’s recommendations nor Senate Bill 577 will significantly expand coverage or services to the 300,000 low-income Missourians impacted by the 2005 Medicaid cuts.

Note: All “No” responses have been highlighted in the chart below to draw attention to what is missing from each MO HealthNet proposal.

<i>Note: This chart is for comparison purposes only. For an assessment of the merits of these proposals, please see companion analyses on the Missouri Budget Project website.</i>	Governor’s Recommendations – MO HealthNet	Senate Bill 577 – MO HealthNet
Restores health care services and eligibility levels that were cut 2005 (The Missouri Budget Project believes this should be part of any reform.)	No	No
Eliminates discrepancies in covered health care services established by the 2005 Medicaid cuts, e.g. wheelchairs are covered but not canes; people who are blind can receive hearing aids, but not people who are deaf. (MBP also believes this should be included in any reform.)	No	No
Changes the Name of “Medicaid” to “MO HealthNet”.	Yes	Yes
Changes the “Division of Medical Services” to the “MO HealthNet Division”.	Yes	Yes

<p><i>Note: This chart is for comparison purposes only. For an assessment of the merits of these proposals, please see companion analyses on the Missouri Budget Project website.</i></p>	<p>Governor's Recommendations – MO HealthNet</p>	<p>Senate Bill 577 – MO HealthNet</p>
<p>Establishes a health care home and health care home coordinator for MO HealthNet participants. This includes a health risk assessment and a plan of care for MO HealthNet participants.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes <i>Termed “health care advocate”.</i></p> <p><i>Note: Money is in the Dept of Social Services’ budget request for this.</i></p>
<p>Provides assistance to parents in MO HealthNet who do not receive temporary cash assistance to achieve independence by improving health outcomes and self-reliance.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No <i>Note: Money is in the Dept of Social Services’ budget request for this.</i></p>
<p>Creates opportunity for participants to access other Medicaid-eligible services by earning credits by taking part in healthy behaviors.</p>	<p>Yes <i>Termed “MO HealthNet Plus”.</i></p>	<p>Yes <i>Individuals sign a “health improvement participant agreement”.</i></p> <p><i>Note: Money is in the Dept of Social Services’ budget request for this.</i></p>
<p>Increases physician-related reimbursement rates.</p>	<p>Yes <i>Note: Money is in the Dept of Social Services’ budget request for this, but less than the agency working group recommended</i></p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Implements pay-for-performance measures to create incentives for providers to improve the health of MO HealthNet participants.</p>	<p>Yes <i>Pay-for-performance would be based on provision of evidence-based care. Initial focus will be on providers in the Chronic Care Improvement Program. Expansion to more participants will follow.</i></p> <p><i>Note: Money is in the Dept of Social Services’ budget request for this.</i></p>	<p>Yes <i>Providers receiving payment under risk-bearing care coordination and administrative services organizations will be required to participate. Providers under state care management point of service program may participate.</i></p>
<p>Expands fraud, waste, and abuse reduction strategies.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Creates small employer premium offset program.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes <i>Gives MO HealthNet Division authority to apply for waivers and State Plan Amendments (SPAs) to implement the program.</i></p> <p><i>Note: Money is in the Dept of Social Services’ budget request for this.</i></p>

<p><i>Note: This chart is for comparison purposes only. For an assessment of the merits of these proposals, please see companion analyses on the Missouri Budget Project website.</i></p>	<p>Governor’s Recommendations – MO HealthNet</p>	<p>Senate Bill 577 – MO HealthNet</p>
<p>Extends MO HealthNet coverage to workers with disabilities.</p>	<p>Yes <i>Will cover approximately 1,800 workers with disabilities.</i></p> <p><i>Note: Money is in the Dept of Social Services’ budget request for this.</i></p>	<p>No <i>However, HB39 expands coverage to workers with disabilities and would impact an estimated 2,715 people with disabilities.</i></p>
<p>Extends MO HealthNet coverage to youth aging out of the foster care system.</p>	<p>Yes <i>Will impact approximately 1,000 youth.</i></p> <p><i>Note: Money is in the Dept of Social Services’ budget request for this.</i></p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Redefines affordability for MC+ children by decreasing the maximum premium to 5% of income.</p>	<p>Yes <i>Will allow an additional 13,800 uninsured children to participate in SCHIP.</i></p> <p><i>Note: Part of the money to do this is in the Dept of Social Services’ budget request.</i></p>	<p>No. <i>In presenting his bill to the Health and Mental Health Committee, Senator Shields indicated that some proposal to do this would be amended to HB39 by the Senate.</i></p>
<p>Creates the Healthcare Technology Fund. Fund will be used to promote advances in patient care, decrease administrative burdens, and increase patient and provider satisfaction.</p>	<p>No <i>However, encourages use of technology for MO HealthNet participants.</i></p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Establishes incentives to receive therapy services.</p>	<p>No <i>However, may be included as an option in MO HealthNet Plus, but not explicit.</i></p>	<p>Yes <i>If money is appropriated and therapy is in participants plan of care.</i></p> <p><i>Note: Money is in the Dept of Social Services’ budget request for this, but it is not clear whether funding is adequate.</i></p>
<p>Makes SCHIP void if there are no funds appropriated by the US Congress for the program.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Establishes the Missouri Long-Term Care (LTC) Partnership Act. Provides incentives to purchase LTC insurance and offers asset disregard for MO HealthNet eligibility equal to the amount paid towards LTC insurance policy.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>

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Establishes Health Improvement Plans. All MO HealthNet participants will all be enrolled in a health improvement plan (risk-bearing care coordination, administrative services organization, or state care management point of services program) by 2013.	No	Yes <i>Disabled and elderly will be enrolled on an “opt-out” basis.</i>
Establishes Oversight Committee on Health Improvement Plans in the Department of Social Services.	No	Yes
All MO HealthNet participants will have electronic access cards to be used for costsharing requirements and allow participants to earn health improvement points.	No <i>However, points can be earned through MO HealthNet Plus.</i>	Yes
Excludes nursing home recipients with greater than \$500,000 in home equity from receiving MO HealthNet payments.	No	Yes
Establishes mechanisms to promote and determine the appropriate use of in-home care.	No	Yes
Establishes costsharing requirements. The state will establish co-payment levels for all participants. There will be a coinsurance for visits to the emergency department that are deemed to be non- emergency.	No	Yes

Sources

Ferber, J. (February 13, 2007). *Key aspects of the Governor's proposed Medicaid reforms*. St. Louis: Legal Services of Eastern Missouri.

Ferber, J. (March 2, 2007). *Overview and discussion of Senate Bill 577*. St. Louis: Legal Services of Eastern Missouri.

Missouri Department of Social Services, Health and Senior Services, and Mental Health. (December 7, 2006). *The transformation of Missouri Medicaid to MO HealthNet: Recommendations offered by the Departments of Social Services, Health and Senior Services and Mental Health*. December 7, 2006. Available at <http://www.dss.mo.gov/mis/mcdtransform.pdf>

Senate Bill No. 577. Available at <http://www.senate.mo.gov/07info/pdf-bill/intro/SB577.pdf>