



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 10, 2023

Media Contact:

[Jill Talley](#), Communications Director

C: (240) 338-6479

MHPA Director of State Affairs Stephanie Myers Testifies on Value of Managed Care Before Idaho Medicaid Managed Care Task Force

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Medicaid Health Plans of America’s Director of State Affairs Stephanie Myers testified yesterday before the Idaho Medicaid Managed Care Task Force on the value and benefits of Medicaid managed care to enrollees, state governments, and the nation’s public health safety net. Myers, who was appointed to a Stakeholder Group within the Task Force, joined representatives from managed care organizations (MCOs), health care provider groups, and community organizations and addressed how Medicaid managed care has helped improve patient outcomes, address disparities in care, and support reduced health care costs in numerous states across the country.

“At its core, Medicaid managed care exemplifies the public-private partnership that, through competition inherent to the bidding process – drives innovation and works to ensure that the state and federal dollars invested in Idaho’s Medicaid program are used as effectively and efficiently as possible. Medicaid MCOs are partners in the delivery of care and services whether working with their partner states, the federal government, providers, community organizations, or Medicaid beneficiaries,” said Myers.

According to the Sellers Dorsey [State of Medicaid Managed Care 2022](#) report, 40 states plus Washington, D.C., use the managed care delivery system, and nearly three quarters of Medicaid beneficiaries are in comprehensive managed care.

“Medicaid MCOs are uniquely positioned to provide holistic care to Idahoans. Through their care management and care coordination operations, MCOs optimize family and caregiver engagement, ensure that communications with family and caregivers are transparent, clear, consistent, and culturally appropriate, and drive innovative solutions that improve the lives of enrollees,” continued Myers.

Led by state [Rep. John Vander Woude](#) (R–Nampa) and state [Sen. Julie Van Orden](#) (R-Pingree), the Task Force will evaluate various care delivery models, including Medicaid managed care, before reporting its findings and recommendations to the Idaho legislature in January 2024.

Background

Idaho voters approved Medicaid expansion in 2018. In a hearing before the Idaho House and Senate health and welfare committees earlier this summer, Administrator of Idaho Medicaid Juliet Charron noted the positive impact of Medicaid expansion while addressing detrimental ramifications of “limited staff resources handling different funding structures.”

According to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, nearly 450,000 people were covered by Medicaid during the COVID-19 pandemic when Congress passed legislation mandating continuous enrollment. Since the state began conducting a massive renewal effort to redetermine enrollee eligibility for the first time in three years, more than 87,000 Idahoans have lost Medicaid coverage; 48, 857 of whom were removed from the state’s Medicaid rolls for procedural reasons.

###

About MHPA

Founded in 1995, the Medicaid Health Plans of America (MHPA) is the only national association that solely represents the interests of the Medicaid managed care industry. Through its advocacy and research work, MHPA supports innovative policy solutions that enhance the delivery of comprehensive, cost-effective, and quality health care for Medicaid enrollees. MHPA works on behalf of its 130+ member health plans, known as managed care organizations (MCOs), which serve more than 52 million Medicaid enrollees in 40 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. MHPA’s members include both for-profit and non-profit national, regional, and single-state health plans that compete in the Medicaid market. Visit [medicaidplans.org](https://www.medicaidplans.org) for more information.