

January 24, 2005 – Topics for Discussion

- **Commissioner Kemp:**
 - ✓ Medicaid and the specific impact on people with disabilities;
 - ✓ Discuss this group's unique set of needs, the general failure of the private market to provide vs. the relative success of Medicaid to service this population;
 - ✓ Discuss the impact of "personal responsibility" initiatives (co-payments, health savings accounts, vouchers) on people with disabilities; and
 - ✓ Narrow the above topic to the developmental disabilities population: these individuals often have the most complex, persistent and severe disabilities and should not be lumped into a general category (i.e., Florida recently "carved out" this population for a new reform waiver). The needs of this specific population of the disability community are not known well.
- **Commissioner Nelson:**
 - ✓ Take a good look at the original language that created Medicaid,
 - ✓ Have a brief discussion of the history that led up to its inception,
 - ✓ Then look at how we feel the original mandate is or is not being fulfilled,
 - ✓ The next step would be to share as a Commission what we see as the vision of what Medicaid should be, and
 - ✓ The final step would be to suggest a mechanism to get there.
- **Commissioner Rugge:**
 - ✓ The reconciliation bill now before Congress contains provisions which would restructure Medicaid in fundamental ways.
 - ✓ Critically important that the Commission discuss how this Congressional action affects the nature of the deliberations.
- **Commissioner Christopher:**
 - ✓ The upcoming Congressional Budget Reconciliation,
 - ✓ The degree of Medicaid reform included in that package and related implications for the work of this Commission, and
 - ✓ Recent articles in the Washington Post (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/01/09/AR2006010901932.html>) and in Health Affairs on health care costs, related macro-economic trends and implications for Medicaid reform.
- **Commissioner Berkowitz:**
 - ✓ Discuss the impact of S.1932 (Deficit Reduction Act) on the Commission's approach to making future recommendations regarding Medicaid.
- **Commissioner Monahan:**
 - ✓ Medicaid Managed Care: opportunity for providing enhanced and quality care to Medicaid beneficiaries,
 - ✓ Managed Long Term Care: opportunity to increase management of costly and fragmented Long Term Care services, and
 - ✓ Increasing Medicaid's focus on improving care outcomes for beneficiaries.