

State Releases Draft Medicaid Reform Plan To Achieve More For Patients, Stabilize Costs

By Administrator

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RALEIGH, (SGRToday.com) - Better patient outcomes. High quality care. Budget predictability. State health officials say these three items are the cornerstone of a draft Medicaid reform plan released Tuesday.

The multi-year plan comes in the wake of intensive efforts by the legislature and governor to bring the health insurance program for the poor under control following years of cost overruns.

The reform plan was presented to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee by Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Rick Brajer. It will be submitted to the federal government for a required waiver on June 1.

The reform centers around moving the plan out of the fee-for-service model and into a system based on value of care provided at a capped price. The transformation is expected to take three years. Those covered currently by the system will receive care in the same way until the program is implemented.

State officials will hold public sessions this spring to get feedback from the public on the plan.

Medicaid accounts for the care of nearly two million citizens in North Carolina at an annual cost to the federal and state government of \$13 billion. It serves approximately one in five North Carolinians and covers about 55 percent of births in the state. About 80,000 healthcare providers in the state serve Medicaid clients.