



State of Utah

GARY R. HERBERT  
Governor

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Lieutenant Governor

## Utah Department of Health

W. David Patton, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

### Division of Medicaid and Health Financing

Michael Hales  
Deputy Director; Utah Department of Health  
Director; Division of Medicaid and Health Financing

January 13, 2015

Members of the Social Services Appropriations Subcommittee  
State Capitol  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Dear Subcommittee Member:

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requires the Department of Health to update its State Plan and existing waivers for Medicaid when the State makes changes to the program. In accordance with these changes and reporting requirements of Subsection 26-18-3(3)(a), the following is a summary of recent changes:

#### **Coverage for Kinship Guardianship**

The Department has transmitted a State Plan Amendment that allows children who leave the foster care system, and are placed permanently with a relative, to continue to qualify for Medicaid until they reach at least 18 years of age.

This amendment does not affect annual appropriations because there is no change in the number of foster care children that Medicaid covers. This amendment only transfers these children to the Kinship Guardianship program, which allows the Department of Human Services to continue to make Title IV-E payments on their behalf.

Moreover, this change does not result in more expensive services to these children and their families.

#### **Telehealth Services**

The Department has transmitted a State Plan Amendment to remove all provisions of coverage and reimbursement for telehealth from the Medicaid State Plan. This amendment is based on CMS guidance that allows the Department to not specify telehealth coverage in the State Plan because telehealth is not a distinct service but rather a method of service delivery.



Although telehealth is no longer specified in the State Plan, there is no cost shift to more expensive services nor change in appropriations because the Department will continue to cover telehealth for Medicaid recipients and reimburse telehealth providers.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Hales", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Hales  
Deputy Director, Department of Health  
Director, Medicaid and Health Financing