

2007 / Fiscal Year 2008 Priorities

Providing Quality Mental Health Services

Missouri's mental health system has been the focus of several tragic and avoidable instances of abuse and neglect. To improve Missouri's mental health system and implement recommendations of the Mental Health Taskforce, and directives in the Executive Order 06-49, Governor Blunt recommends:

- \$9.4 million to improve staffing at the state's habilitation centers and provide additional funding for clients transitioning to the community.
- \$3.7 million to coordinate services for persons with mental retardation and developmental disabilities around the state.
- \$3.6 million to improve services provided to psychiatric clients at Fulton State Hospital.
- \$2.8 million to implement the Mental Health Transformation Grant and develop a plan for improved mental health care delivery in Missouri.
- \$2.5 million to develop integrated home and community-based services for children and youth with serious emotional disturbances and their families, through the Circle of H.O.P.E. grant.
- \$2.5 million to advance information technologies that improve the overall health of individuals with psychiatric and medical illnesses.
- \$2 million to provide services to additional low-income mental health clients.
- \$1.9 million for a pay increase for direct care staff in mental health facilities.
- \$750,000 for a pilot project between Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Community Health Centers (CHCs) around the state to coordinate physical and behavioral health care services.
- \$500,000 to provide additional staff training and development on client safety issues.
- \$300,000 to support the accreditation of the state's facilities for the developmentally disabled.

Healthcare Technology Fund Utilization

For Fiscal Year 2007, Governor Blunt secured \$25 million for the Healthcare Technology Fund to pioneer the use of technology to improve health care in Missouri. For Fiscal Year 2008, Governor Blunt recommends utilizing these funds for the following programs:

- *Improving MO HealthNet* - \$5.7 million to modernize the state's Medicaid payment system, \$5 million for FQHCs to build an electronic health record system, and \$2.5 million to support a statewide database to link pharmacy, patient, and medical provider records.
- *Providing Access to Mental Health Information* - \$1.4 million to assist Department of Mental Health stakeholders to upgrade the system which provides access to information for performance measurements and practice guidelines.
- *Improving Senior, Children, and Disabled Services* - \$1 million to modernize nursing assistant registries maintained by the Department of Health and Senior Services, and \$300,000 to enhance the Family Care Safety Registry, which provides background screenings used by long-term care facilities, home health agencies, mental health agencies, and child care centers.
- *Promoting Safety* - \$230,000 to update the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs registration database and coordinate with the federal Drug Enforcement Administration.

Improving the Health of Missourians

“Providing for a high quality of life for all Missourians means investing in programs like in-home care for seniors, quality mental health care, screening for newborns and wellness programs that reach Missouri classrooms.”

- Matt Blunt

2006 Successes

Missouri’s Current Health Care Safety Net

In 2006, Governor Blunt approved an additional \$731.5 million for Missouri’s Medicaid program for the Fiscal Year 2007 budget. Missouri’s Medicaid program serves more than 825,000 Missourians, and the Blunt Administration preserved comprehensive services for children, pregnant women, and the blind.

Governor Blunt also recommended additional funding, and the General Assembly approved, \$1 million for Missouri’s FQHCs and CHCs in areas where Missourians have limited access to health care. FQHCs and CHCs have led the way in providing quality care to all Missourians regardless of their health insurance status by leveraging federal and state resources to tap into additional local and community support.

Savings Through a Focus on Efficiency

Upon taking office, Governor Blunt directed Missouri’s Medicaid program to root out waste, fraud, and abuse to ensure that Medicaid resources were going to those truly in need of assistance.

The departments of Mental Health and Social Services have saved \$25 million (\$10 million general revenue) in Medicaid behavioral health pharmacy cost savings since January 2005. The project recently was awarded the 2006 Bronze Achievement Award from the American Psychiatric Association.

For third party liability, program integrity and reinvestigations, the savings from January 2005 through November 2006 are \$230.1 million in total funds

Governor Blunt's challenge to increase the emphasis on addressing waste, fraud, and abuse in the Medicaid program has resulted in the following achievements:

- Cash collections from third party payers (insurance carriers, estates, etc.) for services provided to Medicaid recipients increased \$26 million (\$10.4 million general revenue) since January 2005.
- Recoveries from inaccurate Medicaid billings and payments through Program Integrity increased collections by \$28.5 million (\$11.4 million general revenue) since January 2005.
- Reinvestigations for Medicaid eligibility increased from 70 percent to 100 percent since February 2005. The Governor, in his 2005 State of the State address, directed DSS to address this issue and meet the annual reinvestigation requirement. Today, DSS is current in Medicaid reinvestigations (and has been since May 2006). This has resulted in a savings of \$175.6 million to the state and ensured that resources are reserved for those who need them most.

Involving and Supporting Missouri Seniors

Governor Blunt pledged to increase the involvement of seniors in public life, support programs that keep seniors in their homes, and improve the quality of long-term care. To improve the lives of our older Missourians, Governor Blunt has:

- Appointed 40 seniors to various boards and commissions since taking office.
- Implemented a Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORC) contract. NORC is a program for seniors that supports healthy aging in their home by encouraging community involvement and providing access to support services.
- Secured \$379,000 in additional funding for senior centers around the state, ensuring all counties have a center.
- Signed legislation that provides additional licensed long-term care options to expand the continuum of care, providing seniors additional opportunities to choose a long-term care setting that maximizes their quality of life in a safe, dignified, home-like environment.
- Added 32 long-term care facility inspectors to the Department of Health and Senior Services. These staff are dedicated to inspecting nursing homes to ensure they are safe and complying with state and federal requirements.
- Expanded the Missouri Rx state pharmacy program that provides assistance with prescription drug costs to low-income seniors.

Expanding Newborn Screening

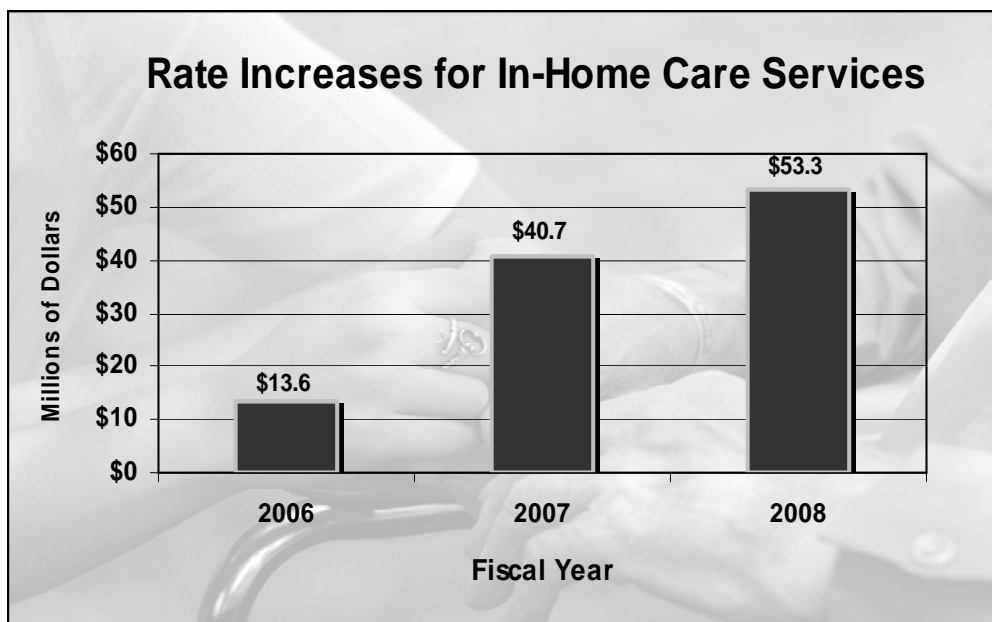
To promote the health and opportunities of children born in Missouri, Governor Blunt has overseen the work to ensure that Missouri will complete the addition of newborn screenings for cystic fibrosis and biotinidase deficiency in 2007.

Missouri is leading other states in screening newborns for all 29 recommended conditions. Catching these conditions early ensures that treatment can begin immediately to minimize any harmful affects.

Increased Funding for In-Home Care

Governor Blunt has emphasized the importance and benefits of in-home care for Missouri seniors and others who need assistance. In-home care allows seniors to remain in their homes and communities, and allows them to retain their independence in a safe environment. To ensure that in-home care is available to Missourians who are eligible, Governor Blunt secured a 64-cent per hour rate increase for in-home care providers in Fiscal Year 2006 and a \$1 per hour rate increase in Fiscal Year 2007.

The Governor also increased funding by \$2.6 million in fiscal years 2006 and 2007 for home-delivered and congregate meals for seniors and individuals with disabilities.



Improving Health Through Chronic Care Management

To meet Governor Blunt's challenge to transform our current safety net program for low-income Missourians into one that provides quality care and focuses on improving health, the Department of Social Services began offering enrollment into the Chronic Care Improvement Program (CCIP) in November of 2006. The CCIP will improve health outcomes for the most seriously ill participants by incorporating the principles of disease management, care coordination, and primary care case management. The program offers choice, empowers participants, improves access to care, provides individualized care, and employs the best use of current technology.

In conjunction with the CCIP, Missouri has introduced electronic patient health records and is the first state in the nation to have an integrated electronic health plan of care for multidisciplinary providers.

The Healthy Missourians Initiative: Combating Childhood Obesity

In 2005, Governor Blunt announced the start of the Healthy Missourians Initiative. The goal of this initiative is to improve the lives of Missourians by encouraging healthy eating, increased physical activity and preventative health measures. Partners in the initiative include the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Health and Senior Services, the Missouri School Board Association, the Missouri Food Service Association, the University of Missouri Extension Services, the American Heart Association, and the Dairy Council. Working together, the partners developed a model local wellness policy for schools to use in implementing a federal U.S. Department of Agriculture mandate. Training sessions were provided throughout the state and at several statewide conferences.

In addition, funding obtained by partners (the Department of Health and Senior Services and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) was provided to nine schools and two child care facilities to make changes aimed at improving nutritional intake of children and increasing their physical activity. Information was obtained by focus groups and surveys from children 6-18 years of age, their parents, and community leaders in eight locations around Missouri. The results were used to implement nutritional and physical activity interventions in four of those locations. The results are also being used to develop a training session and model for communities to impact their environments and assist people in participating in healthy activities. The partners also designed the Katy Trail Challenge across Missouri and held a conference entitled *Missouri Takes Action on Obesity*.