



**Senate Health, Human Services and Aging Committee
John McCarthy, Medicaid Director,
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
Confirmation Hearing
2:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 23, 2011
South Hearing Room, Ohio Statehouse**

Chairman Oelslager, ranking minority member Brown, and members of the Senate Health, Human Services and Aging Committee, I am John McCarthy. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you as Ohio's new Medicaid Director. I want to briefly share my work history and how I came to Ohio.

Before January 24th, I was the Deputy Director of the District of Columbia's Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF), and in that role served as the Medicaid Director. DHCF oversees the District's public insurance program, which includes the Medicaid program and other locally funded programs. Combined, those programs cover over 225,000 residents of the District, which is approximately 1/3 of its total population. This resulted in the District having the second lowest uninsured rate in the nation at 6.2%. In my time with DHCF I had the opportunity to oversee many policy initiatives including: expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) from 200% to 300% of federal poverty level; the development and implementation of a new MR/DD home- and community-based waiver; and the creation of a new high performance managed care contracts.

Prior to working with the District of Columbia, I was a partner with EP&P Consulting, a Medicaid consulting firm. Over a 10-year career I worked with states to help reform their Medicaid programs by developing waiver programs, creating new coverage initiatives, home- and community-based waiver development, development of needs assessment tools, and hospital rate setting. I have also served as a budget analyst in the Governor's Office of Strategic Planning in Arizona.

In January, Governor Kasich asked me to join the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Office of Health Plans as Medicaid Director. As you know Ohio's Medicaid program provides health care insurance to over 2.1 million Ohioans with an annual budget of over \$18 billion. Over half of the people covered, or 1.2 million, are kids. Besides, our traditional Medicaid services, Ohio has a number of home- and community-based waiver programs, along with a very active "Money Follows the Person" program, which won national recognition by developing a collaboration with the housing authority in Cuyahoga County.

I must say, working with the other Directors and the Office of Health Transformation has been a refreshing experience. The collaboration and creative ideas have been like nothing I have experienced before. Because of this, I feel that our goals of rebalancing long-term care, integration of behavioral health services, better care coordination, and payment reform will be accomplished.

I am looking forward to working with each of you. At this time, I would like to identify a few a few key staff at Medicaid:

- Aaron Crooks, Legislative Liason
- Cynthia Dungey, Assistant Deputy Director, Chief of Staff
- Mel Borkan, Assistant Deputy Director, Chief Strategy Officer
- Dr. Mary Applegate M.D, Medical Director

Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify, and I would be happy to answer any questions.