

02.21.05 Statement

It is my sad duty to inform you that we currently have enough funds to pay claims for services provided to Medicaid beneficiaries through March 11, 2005.

There is a desperate need for appropriations to cover the projected \$268M deficit for the remainder of this fiscal year.

As Executive Director, it is my obligation to inform you of our current financial status.

Using the line of credit authority allowed by law, we will now only be able to reimburse providers up to and including Friday, March 11th.

It is extremely important to preserve access for the current 780,000 Medicaid recipients in this state.

The only way to do that is to get resolution to the funding shortfall for this fiscal year as quickly as possible.

As soon as State dollars are available for match, we will be able to cover all claims.

I am encouraging my healthcare colleagues to please continue to provide your valuable services to our beneficiaries.

Your cooperation in this vital matter and your compassion for our beneficiaries is especially appreciated during this crisis.

I can take a few questions . . .