

February 10, 2014

Justification and Outcome Measures for Social Services Appropriations Committee

Agenda: Tuesday, February 11, 2014, 2:00 pm

Item 11: Request for Appropriation (Speaker Lockhart) – Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Electronic Health Record

Brief Background:

Utah County Department of Drug and Alcohol Prevention and Treatment (aDDAPT) is requesting a one time supplemental appropriation through the Department of Human Services, Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health for the procurement and startup costs of a replacement electronic health record. The current record was designed for a community mental health center, and not primarily for a substance abuse treatment system. It was also designed for a system where almost all services are provided by in-house staff. Utah County aDDAPT contracts a significant portion of its services out to private providers in the community.

Justification:

- Utah County Govt is statutorily responsible for providing public drug and alcohol prevention and treatment services to the citizens of Utah County.
- Funding comes primarily from federal SAPT block grant dollars, Medicaid, and state, and county general funds. All have usage restrictions.
- Federal and state contracts require substantial data reporting requirements.
- Current electronic health record is expensive to operate and maintain, and upgrade.
- Data submissions to state are inaccurate (50% error rate) and system not designed for SUD programs.
- The 2009 federal HITECH Act did not include public behavioral health centers in its reimbursement formula that provided funding to hospitals and physicians for EHR procurement and implementation.
- Three bills in congress (including the Behavioral Health Information Technology Act of 2013 (S.2957) would include funding for behavioral health centers, but all have a small chance of passage.
- UC aDDAPT has applied for funds to Provo, Orem, and Mountainlands Community Development Block Grant programs for the costs of EHR procurement and implementation, but chances of approval for all three are small.

Outcome/performance measures:

- Improve state data submission accuracy rate from 50% to 90%
- Decrease annual EHR operating costs from \$172,000 to \$57,000