Medicaid Match

Overview:
The Utah Behavioral Healthcare Committee requests to address the need for Medicaid Match dollars to draw down resources from the Federal level. This is a result of not receiving Medicaid growth consideration for years as has been done for physical health, leaving behavioral health in need of additional funds in order to fulfill their contractual responsibility.

History:
• The number of Medicaid enrollees has grown exponentially over the last two decades across the state.
• Behavioral health is not considered for consensus in the same way that physical health, leaving behavioral health short of Medicaid dollars used to draw down Federal dollars.
• Counties are required to match state funds at 20% and many counties have been overmatching in order to make up any deficit in funds and programming – causing additional burden upon the counties.
• Many counties are now at their limit and are not able to increase the funds they put towards Medicaid match.
• The $6.4M for Medicaid Match is a four-year old request and has been one-time appropriation.

In the 2016 Legislative Session, we request that the $6.4M designated for Medicaid match be made ongoing. After assessing growing need, UBHC has determined that an additional $5M is needed in FY2017 to serve the entire Medicaid population statewide. We also request that the Legislature review the funding structure to address additional need in the future and keep the system whole.