

Minnesota Health and Human Services Update

Posted by [Christine M. Zimmer](#) on February 09, 2011

At yesterday's House Health and Human Services Finance Committee, Chair Jim Abeler (R-Anoka) presided over a full committee with an over capacity crowd. Each member was provided a shoebox full of handouts from the Minnesota Health Plans (MHP), as well as a plethora of paper from the Minnesota Department of Human Services and the Minnesota Medical Association (MMA).

The committee heard a presentation from the MMA regarding ideas for change in the health and human services area. The MHPs provided an overview of reporting requirements. The committee hoped to find out if the state of Minnesota was obtaining quality service for the right price.

House State Government Finance Committee Chair Morrie Lanning (R-Moorhead) stated to the committee that a review of the Minnesota Health Plans profitability over a significant amount of time was necessary to determine value to the state. "Profit is not a bad word, but excessive profit at the expense of the state is a problem," said Lanning.

Representative Erin Murphy (DFL-St. Paul) noted the shoebox full of data from the health plans, but said, "I am grateful to get all the information, but it does not equate with transparency."

At least two television cameras and numerous reporters were in the room which was filled with Capitol regulars, and many from the disabled community. The appearance of Lucinda Jesson, Commissioner for Human Services, caused a roar of whispers amongst the crowd.