Abstract

The Oklahoma Medicaid program is near collapse. The Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) has reduced coverage for children and is considering eliminating adult dental services, reducing prescription drug benefits, and reducing the limit on in-hospital days from twenty-four to fifteen days per year. The Eldercare program, which is intended to help keep Medicare patients at home by providing enhanced prescription drug coverage along with personal assistance, has been terminated. Up to 93,000 Oklahomans could be impacted by these changes. As of February 2003, cuts have resulted in a reduction of benefits to about 47,000 people.

Proposal four of the Health Care - Not Welfare Program is the best way to maintain access to care for the Medicaid population and the working poor. The proposal uses an annual application fee and funds from SCHIP to provide coverage, yet has no impact on those covered by traditional Medicaid. This program would generate an additional $12 million in revenue in addition to providing coverage for an additional 47,000 lives.