

Opinion

Guest editorial

Medicaid cutbacks a serious problem

by Robert Hester
Administrator, Nicholas County Health Care

As most of you know, the Cabinet for Human Resources has cut the Kentucky Medicaid program by over \$40 million. The majority of the cuts are in long-term and acute care, which affects our total facility.

We are looking at an approximate 25 percent cut in reimbursement for Medicaid-skilled care, a four percent cut in Medicaid-intermediate care (which even at the present rate does not cover our costs), a five percent cut in Medicaid-acute care (which also presently does not cover costs), and all Medicaid out-patient work, which is presently paid at 80 percent of charges, will be paid at 70 percent of charges.

All of the above changes in payment will account for a cut of over \$60,000 a year in payment to our facility from Medicaid. Add that to the other changes in payment, such as Medicare and a low occupancy, and you see the problems with which we are faced.

The unreasonableness of the Medicaid cuts are compounded by other factors. The federal poverty guidelines are such that a family of three with less than \$4,000 annual income may qualify for certain programs. In Kentucky, the Medicaid qualification for a family of three is a yearly income of \$2,000 or less. There are many Kentuckians falling through the cracks, and having no medical coverage. In the first six months...

of 1985 Nicholas County Hospital averaged six percent of total patient revenue for charity care, and 21.34 percent of total patient days were Medicaid days. We hope to continue to be able to serve these patients.

The state Medicaid program is made up of state and federal money. The state is cutting reimbursement to avoid a deficit in the Medicaid budget. However, the state has a revenue surplus in the General Fund of approximately \$100 million. To stop the deficit, the state had taken \$15 million from the surplus to spend on Medicaid, the Federal government matching funds would have produced another \$30 million, the total of \$45 million would have funded Medicaid for this year, in hopes that the legislature would address the problem when they meet in 1986. The state chose instead to cut their already low payment for services even more.

The state's expenditure on their portion of the Medicaid program is less than six percent of revenue. Kentucky is 46th in the United States in Medicaid support for their population. We cannot stand, as one of the lowest cost providers in Kentucky, to absorb increased costs in reimbursement for the care we are providing. We must continue our state and federal officials to let them know that they are endangering not just quality care, but the provision of care in quality health care facilities, including ours. Your help is needed now.

The burglar was hungry

State Police are investigating recent break-ins at the North Hill Camp on Lake Road. The first occurred sometime between August 4-11 when the camp closed. The most recent was on the night of August 15, during a week-long band camp.

In both instances food stored in the kitchen was the intruder's objective, since quantities of meat, sausage, ham and staples were taken. Mrs. Corinne Smith, food manager and supervisor for the camp, said the burglar left no forcible signs of entry in the initial raid nor any supplies. Camp manager Cecil Howard reported hearing no noise or anything suspicious.

The second time around it was a different story. Howard noticed several beds torn from windows leading to the bedrooms and porch as he made his nightly rounds. A footprint was discovered on the kitchen floor, which might aid in pinpointing the guilty party.

Due to the kind and quantity of food taken, band campers have been advised of any wrongdoing. State Police are in town last Wednesday to make suggestions on how the camp can be up to security, but were not there when it comes to locking up and leaving them down on almost any road in the county, or where. That's what you call isolation.

Here Abouts
with Emily A. Wolf

Letters...

Grandson bound for duty overseas

To the Carlisle Mercury:
I am sending you a picture of our grandson, Dicky Dipp, who is in the Marines. He has been in 18 years and is now Staff Sergeant. He is stationed in North Carolina but is getting ready to go to France. He and Steve. We were very proud of him.

Well, as it is renewal time again I am sending you a check on \$100.00 more on loans. We were very proud of the Mercury and look forward to it.

There have been so many changes in Carlisle in the past 20 years but it is still our hometown.

My Beatrice Estate
My Lakeland Estate
New Richmond, Ohio 4317



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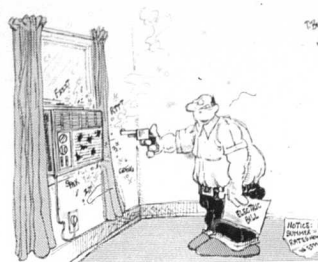
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from Mercury files of bygone years

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Holly Farms Grade A Pick-Of-The-Chix

99¢

Double Payroll!!!

Macaroni & Cheese Dinner

39¢

Assorted & White Northern Bath Tissue

99¢

7 Oz. Box

2 Roll Pkg.

3 Pounds Or More Turkey Drumsticks

39¢

Shorgod Franks

39¢

Rib Eye Steaks

39¢

Beef Patties

49¢

USDA CHOICE

Boneless Chuck Roast

119¢

USDA Choice Table-Rite Sliced Slab Bacon

129¢

Country Style Sliced Slab Bacon

129¢

IGA COUPON

Large Eggs

389¢

IGA American Singles

119¢

Pringles Chips

99¢

Williams Sausage

1 lb. Roll \$1.69

2 lb. Roll \$3.37

No Sugar Added
Free Samples Friday & Saturday

Watermelon \$1.99

Washington Red Delicious Apples \$3.19

Sunkist Valencia Oranges \$6.99

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Bucket Chicken Sale

Chicken Only

With Ribs & Salad

13.79

10.49

15 piece

9.49

7 piece

4.69

13.49

FREE! 1 lb. Cole Slaw with the purchase of a pound of any of our fine deli cheese or lunch meats!

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Dove Liquid

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Marzola

Cooking Oil

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18 Oz. 32 Oz.

IGA Bread

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2% Milk

149¢

RC 100, Big Red R.C., Diet Rite

119¢

Country Style Sliced Slab Bacon

129¢

24 Oz. Light Swiss Cottage Cheese

129¢

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