Family Planning Elevated (FPE) is a statewide contraceptive initiative, working to expand contraceptive access across Utah. FPE assists health centers in building capacity to meet the contraceptive needs of their clients; supports Utahns in accessing the contraceptive methods they want without economic or geographic barriers; and strives to bolster local and state family planning policies. FPE releases Policy Snapshots before and after each Utah State Legislative Session. We hope you find our inaugural policy snapshot helpful.

MEDICAID IS EXPANDING, BUT NOT EXACTLY HOW WE THOUGHT.

In November 2018, Utah voters passed Proposition 3, a Medicaid expansion ballot initiative that would extend health coverage to Utahns with incomes below 138% FPL. During the 2019 General Session, Senate Bill 96 Medicaid Expansion Adjustments was introduced and passed. The bill reduced the income eligibility to 100% FPL and legislated work requirements and per capita caps. Medicaid expansion is scheduled to go into effect on April 1, 2019. The Utah State Medicaid office created an Implementation Toolkit that describes the Medicaid expansion plan and timeline.

ABORTION IS LEGAL IN UTAH, BUT BILL BANS PROCEDURE AFTER 18 WEEKS GESTATIONAL AGE.

House Bill 136, Abortion Amendments, prohibits an abortion from being performed after the fetus reaches 18 weeks gestational age except under certain circumstances. Lawsuits will likely be brought against the state challenging the bill as unconstitutional. Individuals who are pregnant and considering abortion must complete a state-mandated information module and wait 72 hours after their consultation.

EMPOWERED TEACHERS EMPOWER STUDENTS.

House Bill 71, Health Education Amendments, modifies what can be taught in Utah sex education courses. Teachers are permitted to discuss medical characteristics, effectiveness, limitations, and risks of contraceptive methods or devices. However, it still stresses the importance of abstinence of sexual activity before marriage and prohibits educators to advocate or encourage the use of contraceptive methods or devices. Answer provides resources for professionals, teens, and parents regarding honest, accurate sexuality education.

HELPING UTAHNS AVOID UNINTENDED PREGNANCY DURING AND AFTER INCARCERATION.

House Bill 275, Contraception for Women Prisoners, would require county jails in Utah to allow incarcerated individuals to continue any medically prescribed method of contraception. The majority of Utah jails discontinue contraceptive methods while someone is incarcerated which can put them at risk of unintended pregnancy. This bill did not pass during this session, but was moved to the interim session for further consideration.

FAMILY PLANNING ELEVATED IS A RESOURCE FOR YOU!

Visit FPEutah.org for policy updates and reports to support your clinical practice and patient advocacy.