

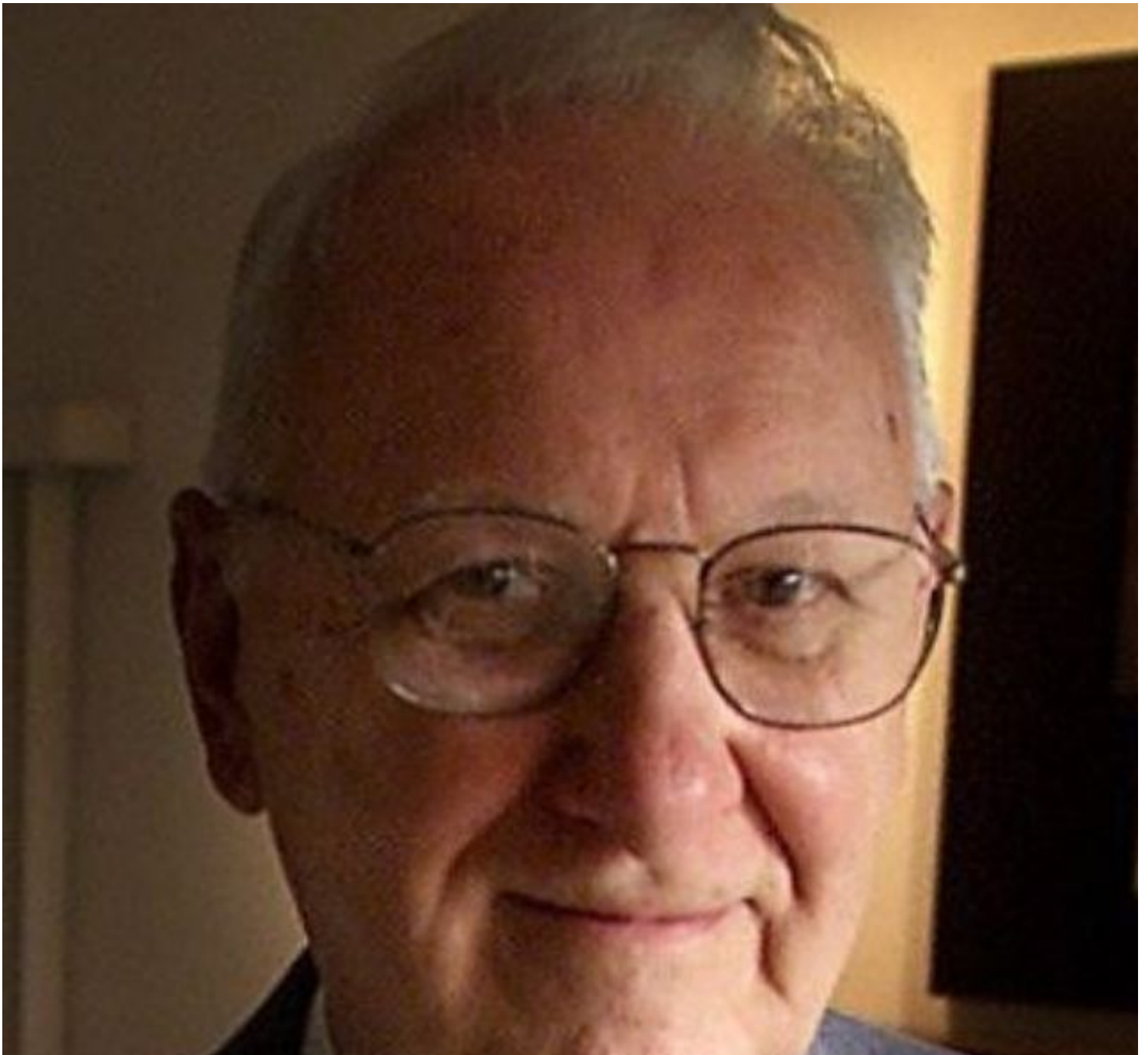
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**GUEST EDITORIALS**

## **How can Iowa's Medicaid privatization be improved?**





Special to the Press-Citizen



**Bob Welsh** | Guest Opinion

18 hours ago

The Johnson County Task Force on Aging and Johnson County Case Management are teaming up to review the state's experience with medical privatization and what can be done to improve the system. The forum, "Iowa's Medicaid Modernization: An Update and Look Ahead," will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. Monday in the Coralville Public Library.

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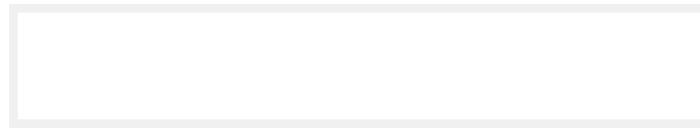
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Guest panelists include Mikki Stier, director of Iowa Medicaid Enterprise, and

representatives from Iowa's three managed care organizations.

Bob Welsh, TFA representative, will moderate the discussion along with Jane Wollum, Johnson County's case management administrator, and Shawn Zierke, chair of the TFA.

The purpose of the forum is to receive a realistic picture of the present status of the Medicaid modernization program in Iowa and to discuss how the program can be improved. As one provider said, "Stop pretending that this has gone well. Let's sit down with our eyes wide open and address issues and work on road blocks that are preventing optimal outcome."



Mikki Stier, in her opening statement, will respond to three questions:

- There were three objectives in the move to managed care. On a scale of 1-5, how would you rate the following at this time in history: Has it improved quality and access to services? Has it resulted in greater accountability? Is the cost more predictable?
- What has gone as planned? What has happened that you had not planned for and what changes are you seeking to make?
- Is IME looking to renegotiate the reimbursement rates?

Moderators will ask the following questions and follow-up questions of the MCOs:

- What has gone as planned? What has happened that you had not planned for and what changes are you seeking to make?
- What have you learned since last September? What has been your biggest challenge? What is your data saying to you?
- Are there changes you would like to see made in the rules and regulations?

The forum will then move to a dialogue on what steps can be taken to improve the system.

The public is encouraged to attend this forum and help to determine what can be done by IME, the three MCOs, the providers and the consumers to improve the system.

The Coralville Public Library requests those attending the forum event to park in the lower level.

*Bob Welsh is a representative of the Johnson County Task Force on Aging and a member of the Older Iowans Legislature.*



## IF YOU GO

**WHAT:** "Iowa's Medicaid Modernization: An Update and Look Ahead," a forum on Iowa's privatized Medicaid system.

**WHEN:** 2 to 4 p.m. Monday

**WHERE:** Coralville Public Library, 1401 Fifth St., Coralville

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