



NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**AUERBACH CONTINUES WATCH OVER D.S.S.**  
AUDITING MEDICAID IS AN AUERBACH GOAL

KINGSTON, NY (May 6, 2010)... Ulster County Comptroller Elliott Auerbach has released a follow-up audit of the Ulster County Department of Social Services (UCDSS) Medical Assistance (Medicaid) Spend-Down Program. The Comptroller views follow-up audits as part of his Office's due diligence to ensure that County assets are accounted for and protected.

As a result of a report of missing funds made to the Ulster County Sheriff's Office, the Comptroller audited the UCDSS Medicaid Spend-Down Program in August 2009. "We found a series of concerns regarding cash management and internal controls," said Auerbach.

Following that audit the UCDSS responded with a corrective action plan.

"We believe it is important to revisit departments where we have documented fiscal management concerns," said Auerbach, "we need to be sure the corrective action plan was implemented and that it effectively addressed our original findings." The follow-up audit found the corrective action plan was implemented and provided guidance to overcome remaining weaknesses.

Noting that county comptrollers are prohibited in New York State from auditing Medicaid providers, Auerbach said "until that prohibition is repealed I will use my resources to audit what I can where I can." Ulster County's 2010 budget contains close to \$30 million dollars for Medical Assistance Programs.

"I have been working with county comptrollers across the state to amend the state law limiting our ability to audit Medicaid," said Auerbach. Elected county comptrollers have been meeting together to address issues of common concern. "We convene at conferences and have conference calls to keep our agenda moving," explained the Comptroller.

The New York State Department of Health has issued an administrative directive that prohibits local districts, such as a county, from performing traditional audits. The directive notes that local districts can review the local share of Medicaid payments made to providers, but cannot perform audits that result in recovery of payments. (See DOH Transmittal # 03 OMM/DAM-6 dated September 25, 2003.)

The UCDSS Follow-Up Audit Report can be found at [www.UlsterNY.gov/resources/comptroller](http://www.UlsterNY.gov/resources/comptroller).

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*The mission of the Ulster County Comptroller's Office is to serve as an independent agency of the people and to protect the public interest by monitoring County government and to assess and report on the degree to which its operation is economical, efficient and its financial condition sound.*