

taking down words

Indiana politics...à la carte

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The Switching Hour: State Employees To Become ACS Workers This Week

Ken Kusmer of the Associated Press brings us an in-depth [look](#) at the Medicaid privatization process, which hits a key milestone tomorrow when state employees become employees of Affiliated Computer Services.



"At stake is the smooth, uninterrupted delivery of benefits depended upon by 1.1 million children, seniors and needy and disabled people, or one of every six Indiana residents. The

administration of Gov. Mitch Daniels has wagered \$1.16 million on a successful outcome, making the contract one of the richest in state history.

"Not everyone shares the administration's confidence, especially after Texas abruptly canceled a similar contract last Monday. The Food and Nutrition Service, the federal agency that oversees the food stamp program, imposed new demands on FSSA last week so it can better monitor the progress of the IBM coalition. Advocates also are watching closely to make sure the privatization doesn't leave gaping holes in the safety net for vulnerable Hoosiers.

"It really does behoove everyone in Indiana to look at this carefully as it unfolds,' said Patti O'Callaghan of Lafayette, president of an advocate network called the Indiana Coalition for Human Services."

Last night, TDW caught the end of this WTHR [story](#) about the shift from public to private. It looks like the Mitches disagree on the motivation for privatizing in the first place:

Governor Daniels signed off on the plan last November and appeared unmoved by the government's letter.

"The federal government is getting ready to penalize Indiana tens of millions of dollars if we didn't fix the worst welfare system in America. That's why we're doing this. A huge win for taxpayers we'll save a billion dollars," the governor told Eyewitness News.

Mitch Roob says the state won't likely see those savings anytime soon. In fact, his agency projects a lower number at \$390 million.

According to Roob, "We don't save any money doing this. We're going to spend just as much money. This is not about cost savings. This is about getting better, faster, cheaper and in that order."

Mar 18, 2007 at 09:49 AM | [Permalink](#)

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Of course the Mitches disagree on the motivation for privatization. The motication could be anythin - fill in the blank. They want to privatze just to privatize. Reason and facts be damned.

Posted by: | [Mar 18, 2007 at 06:50 PM](#)

The city sold their computer consulting/troubleshooting/etc to ACS (now ISA) and it has been just tremendous. Not.

Posted by: Fisher Ames | [Mar 19, 2007 at 12:51 AM](#)

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