



Disabled & Elderly Health Programs Group

JUN 23 2014

Ruth Kennedy, Medicaid Director
Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals (DHH)
Bienville Building
628 North 4th Street
Post Office Box 91030
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9030

Dear Ms. Kennedy:

We are pleased to inform you that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is approving Louisiana's application for an initial 1915(b) Medicaid Waiver, CMS control number LA-05.R00.00. This waiver will allow the state to contract with a Dental Benefit Plan (DBP) to improve access and outcomes through appropriate care and network management. The DBP will serve all Medicaid beneficiaries eligible for dental services, including children and eligible CHIP Medicaid expansion children and adults.

The decision to approve this waiver is based on the information submitted to CMS indicating that the state's proposal is consistent with the Medicaid program and will meet all statutory and regulatory requirements assuring beneficiaries access to care and quality services, and will demonstrate waiver cost-effectiveness for section 1915(b) waiver programs.

To operate the program as a Prepaid Ambulatory Health Plan (PAHP), the waiver is authorized under 1915(b)(4) of the Social Security Act (the Act) and provides waivers of the following sections of Title XIX:

- Section 1902(a)(4) – (Mandate beneficiaries into a single PIHP/PAHP)
- Section 1902(a)(23) – (Freedom of Choice)

The state must arrange for an independent evaluation or assessment of their waiver program and submit the findings when renewing the waiver program. At minimum, the Independent Assessment (IA) is a requirement for the first two waiver periods. As specified in the 1915(b) waiver application the IA should be submitted with the waiver renewal request ninety (90) days before the expiration of the approved waiver program.

This request for an initial waiver is effective July 1, 2014. The program is approved for a 2-year period from July 1, 2014 through March 31, 2016. The state may request renewal of this authority by providing evidence and documentation of satisfactory performance and oversight. Louisiana's request that this authority be renewed should be submitted to CMS no later than January 1, 2016.

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We wish you success in the operation of this waiver program and thank you and your staff for your cooperation during the waiver review process. If you have any further questions please contact Janice Arceneaux in the Dallas Regional Office at (214) 767-2142 or Kiya Stewart, of my staff, at (410) 786-5622.

Sincerely,



Nancy L. Klimon, DrPH
Director, Division of Integrated Health Systems

cc: Billy Farrell, CMS
Janice Arceneaux, CMS
Bill Brooks, CMS