



# Iowa Department of Human Services

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Terry E. Branstad  
Governor

Kim Reynolds  
Lt. Governor

Charles M. Palmer  
Director

September 3, 2015

Ms. Victoria Wachino  
Director  
Center for Medicaid & CHIP Services  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-26-12  
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850  
[victoria.wachino@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:victoria.wachino@cms.hhs.gov)

Re: Iowa High Quality Healthcare §1915(b) Waiver Submission

Dear Director Wachino:

The Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) is pleased to submit a new §1915(b) waiver to establish a managed care delivery system for the majority of Iowa Medicaid enrollees. By requiring mandatory enrollment in managed care, the State will be positioned to improve care coordination among providers and incentivize active management of member's healthcare as a whole. Under the new delivery system, managed care organizations (MCOs) will be responsible for delivering all covered benefits in a highly coordinated manner. The system is intended to integrate care and improve quality outcomes and efficiencies.

This letter also serves as notice of Iowa's intent to terminate its §1915(b) waiver authority to operate the "Iowa Plan for Behavioral Health (IA-07)." Termination of the Plan will be effective December 31, 2015, and conditioned upon approval of the State's §1915(b) waiver to implement the "Iowa High Quality Healthcare Initiative," beginning January 1, 2016.

The new Initiative will establish a statewide Medicaid managed care delivery system. The State will ensure continuity of care for transitioning Iowa Plan members by requiring that MCOs honor existing authorizations for covered benefits for a minimum of ninety (90) calendar days, without regard to whether such services are being provided by contract or non-contract providers. In addition, plans will be required to identify existing prior authorization decisions, and will be responsible for providing receiving plans with information on member service authorizations, utilization data, and applicable clinical information including, but not limited to, disease management or care coordination notes.

Iowa Plan members and providers will be notified in advance of the transition through client letters and general public announcements. Information will include, but not be limited to, relevant changes in service delivery, managed care plan assignment, plan descriptions and contact information, procedures for electing a different plan, and general member rights.

The State looks forward to continuing to work with its federal partners at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to ensure a seamless transition for Iowa Plan members to the new Initiative, and to further modernize the State's Medicaid program through the new §1915(b) waiver. Thank you again for the opportunity to submit this waiver amendment request. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff on approval. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mikki Stier".

Mikki Stier, MSHA, FACHE  
Medicaid Director

MS/js

Enclosure: Iowa High Quality Healthcare Initiative §1915(b) waiver application

cc: Charles M. Palmer, Director  
James G. Scott, CMS Region 7  
Sandra Levels, CMS Region 7  
Liz Matney, IME  
Jennifer Steenblock, IME

