



Timeline of Events: Iowa Health and Wellness Plan

May 23, 2013: The Iowa Health and Wellness Plan is passed by the Iowa Legislature. The plan was part of Senate File 446, and developed in a bi-partisan approach to offer Medicaid coverage to low income adults in Iowa.

June 20, 2013: Governor Branstad signs Senate File 446 into law during a special ceremony in Mason City, officially authorizing the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan.

July 15, 2013: The draft Iowa Wellness Plan and Iowa Marketplace Choice Plan 1115 Waiver applications were released for public review and comment on July 15, 2013. All comments were due by August 15, 2013 at 4:30 p.m.

July 29-30, 2013: Public hearings were held in Des Moines and Council Bluffs related to the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan. Members of the public were able to learn about the new program and offer comments on the draft 1115 Waiver applications.

August 23, 2013: The final Iowa Wellness Plan and Iowa Marketplace Choice Plan 1115 Demonstration Waiver applications became available for review. The waiver applications were submitted to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on August 20, 2013.

December 30, 2013: The Iowa Wellness Plan and Iowa Marketplace Choice Plan Section 1115 Demonstration Waivers were approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

January 1, 2014: Coverage under the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan begins for more than 50,000 Iowans.

January 3, 2014: Governor Branstad and Lt. Governor Reynolds announced that Iowa has received final documents from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding the approval of the Iowa Wellness Plan and Iowa Marketplace Choice Plan waivers. The waivers were finalized on December 30, 2013. Coverage began on January 1, 2014.

January 31, 2014: The Iowa Department of Human Services announced the public comment period related to the update on the differences between the 1115 Waivers sent to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in August 2013 and what was approved in December 2013. The public comment period closed on March 8, 2014 at 4:30 p.m.

April 1, 2014: Iowa Medicaid announced the signing of agreements with two large accountable care organizations (ACOs), effective April 1, 2014. Agreements were signed with the University of Iowa Health Alliance LLC and UnityPoint Health Partners.

May 1, 2014: Coverage for dental services began for Iowa Health and Wellness Plan members under the Dental Wellness Plan. Operated by Delta Dental of Iowa, the Dental Wellness Plan offers comprehensive dental benefits to members.

May 16, 2014: Iowa Health and Wellness Plan enrollment tops 100,000, marking a major enrollment milestone.

May 21, 2014: The Iowa Department of Human Services held a public comment forum on the initial implementation and operation of the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan. During the forum, individuals and organizations had the opportunity to share comments on the program. The forum was held on May 21, 2014, from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., following the Medical Assistance Advisory Council (MAAC) meeting.

May 30, 2014: On Friday, May 30, from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., a public meeting was held to provide another opportunity and format to gather input from Medicaid members, advocates, constituents, and potential bidders to inform the Healthy Behaviors Program Request for Information aspect of the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan.

June 4, 2014: The evaluation designs for the Iowa Wellness Plan and the Iowa Marketplace Choice Plan were approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The evaluation design outlines how Iowa Medicaid plans to measure the effectiveness and success of the program.

July 1, 2014: Iowa Medicaid announces that Broadlawns Medical Center has become the third entity to be recognized as an accountable care organization (ACO), effective July 1, 2014. The addition of Broadlawns means that more than 26,000 Iowa Wellness Plan members have a primary care provider affiliated with one of the three ACOs.

July 3, 2014: The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approve the Healthy Behaviors Premium Monitoring Protocols for Year 1 for the Iowa Wellness Plan and Iowa Marketplace Choice Plan 1115 Waivers.

July 3, 2014: Iowa Medicaid launches a new member website for the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan, available at iahealthlink.gov. The new site features benefit and enrollment information and also promotes the Healthy Behaviors Program.