



Family Voices of Illinois
The Arc of Illinois
Family to Family Health Information Center

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Dear Director Hamos:

Thank you for affording us this opportunity to comment on HFS's planned Coordinated Care Program.

The Arc of Illinois Family to Family Health Information Center is now in its sixth year of operation. We are funded by HRSA MCHB to serve Illinois' over 450,000 children and youth with special health care needs, encompassing all chronic illnesses and/or disabilities. Our Illinois Life Span Project has been operating for eleven years, and serves families and persons with developmental disabilities of all ages. Both of these programs serve the entire state of Illinois.

We look forward to collaborating with you to develop a Coordinated Care Program that will be able to be effective in meeting the diverse needs of enrollees with all types of special health care needs and/or disabilities.

At the present time, we are in need of more information from you in order to provide meaningful responses to the specific questions which you have posed.

The first steps which we recommend include:

1. Using existing claims data to identify all children enrolled in All Kids who meet the medical-diagnostic eligibility for the Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC) and ensuring that they are enrolled concurrently with DSCC in order to address their ongoing care coordination needs.
2. Using existing claims data, plus modifying the All Kids enrollment form, to ascertain which children enrolled in All Kids have IFSPs (for Early Intervention), IEPs (special education services) or 504 Plans (for chronic illnesses). In other words, all children with special health care needs (CSHCN) enrolled in All Kids.
3. Once #2 is accomplished (along with a plan for quarterly updates), issue a report on the demographics of CSHCN in All Kids, including age, diagnoses, and geographic distribution.
4. Using existing claim data and medical records, ascertain which children and adults enrolled in All Kids, AABD, Family Care, and other Medicaid programs have developmental disabilities and ensure that each of them are referred to their Independent Service Coordination agency (ISC) for completion of the PUNS survey.

5. Again, once #4 is accomplished (with regular updates), issue a report on the demographics of all Medicaid enrollees statewide with developmental disabilities and their PUNS status.

We look forward to receiving this targeted information regarding Medicaid enrollment of the constituencies whom we represent, and then can plan to provide more detailed recommendations regarding the Coordinated Care Program.

In terms of our anticipated role regarding participation in the Coordinated Care Program, we plan to focus on two major avenues:

1. Serving HFS in an advisory capacity regarding children and adults with special health care needs and/or disabilities.
2. Contracting with HFS, following the national model already in existence with F2F Centers in other states, to do the following:
 - a. Provide care coordination support for children and families with complex needs
 - b. Provide technical assistance and training to HFS staff, providers and managed care companies
 - c. Develop targeted client education materials

Please feel free to contact us at 708-560-6703 if you have any questions regarding our comments or would like additional information.

We look forward to continued collaboration with HFS on behalf of our state's residents with special needs.

Sincerely,

Tony Paulauski
Executive Director

Faye Manaster, M.Ed.
F2F Project Director