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advancing justice and opportunity

Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law

April 5, 2012

Bureau of Program Reimbursement Analysis  
Division of Medical Programs  
Department of Healthcare and Family Services  
201 South Grand Avenue East  
Springfield, IL 62763-0002

Re. Medicaid 115 Waiver: CCHHS Care Coordination Enhancements and Bridge to ACA

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law provides national leadership in advancing laws and policies that secure justice and improve the lives and opportunities of people living in poverty. Access to comprehensive, quality, affordable health care for all Americans is a priority in our work. We have supported Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program expansions and program improvements in the past, and we know that, due to those expansions and improvements, millions of Illinois adults and children are living better lives because they are getting needed medical care in a timely and appropriate matter.

The Affordable Care Act will expand Medicaid eligibility to the low-income adult population previously ineligible for Medicaid in 2014. The Cook County Health and Hospital System Medicaid waiver proposal seeks to extend Medicaid coverage early to the low-income uninsured population in Cook County that will become Medicaid eligible in 2014. We strongly support the waiver proposal.

As discussed in the waiver proposal, this uninsured low-income population needs access to well-functioning medical homes that focus on prevention, early detection of illness, and coordinated, comprehensive management of chronic disease. The CCHHS will be that medical home under the waiver. If CMS approves the proposal, the health of the men and women covered by the waiver will improve substantially and needless pain, suffering, deterioration, and even death will be avoided.

We applaud the CCHHS and the Department of Healthcare and Family Services for designing a comprehensive, fine-tuned waiver proposal. We hope that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services promptly approve the waiver so CCHHS can move ahead and implement the expansion on July 1, 2012.

Please contact me at 312.368.3327 or [mstapleton@povertylaw.org](mailto:mstapleton@povertylaw.org) if you need additional information. Thank you for your attention.

Very truly yours,

Margaret Stapleton  
Community Justice Director

*The Shriver Center is a 2010 recipient of the MacArthur Foundation Creative and Effective Institutions Award.*

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