

HFS.Webmaster

From: ilext.moss.farm@illinois.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 4:57 PM
To: HFS.Webmaster
Subject: Feedback from Public Notices

New Feedback has been received on the Public Notices site.

First Name:: Tony

Last Name:: Paulauski

Organization:: The Arc of Illinois

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State:: Illinois

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Comment: Thank you for this opportunity to share our comments on the proposed 1115 Waiver application. We look forward to collaborating with you in the implementation phase. Please call us at 815-464-1832 if you have any questions.

This email was automatically sent from the SOI Feedback web part on the Public Notices site.
Responses are not monitored.



Family Voices of Illinois

The Arc of Illinois

Family to Family Health Information Center

www.familyvoicesillinois.org

familytofamily@thearcofil.org

708-560-6703 (voice) 866-931-1110 (toll free for Illinois families)

March 28, 2012

Re: Proposed 1115 Waiver Demonstration Project to Cover the Uninsured

Dear Director Hamos:

The Arc of Illinois, Family Voices of Illinois and the Illinois Life Span Project strongly support the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services 1115 Waiver Demonstration Project proposal to offer Medicaid coverage to uninsured low-income adults in Cook County, and hopefully, in additional counties as well.

Implementation of this proposed coverage option will greatly benefit many uninsured youth and adults with special health care needs, disabilities and chronic illnesses who currently have very limited options to obtain health insurance.

Our Family to Family Health Information Center and Illinois Lifespan Project receive frequent inquiries from these individuals and their families who are currently uninsured.

This issue is of particular significance to the disability community, as the majority of adults who had Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) for special education services, or 504 Plans for chronic illnesses, do not meet the Social Security Administration's definition of disability and are thus unable to access Medicaid coverage under the Assistance to the Aged, Blind and Disabled (AABD) provision of Medicaid. Moreover, these same adults are frequently unable to obtain and maintain employment and employment-based health insurance.

We recommend that once this waiver program is underway, the HFS will establish a cooperative agreement with DHD, Division of Developmental Disabilities, to include determination of insurance status as part of the PUNS (Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services) process and to auto-refer any uninsured individuals on the PUNS waiting list to this new option. In addition, Independent Service Coordination (ISC) agencies in the participating counties should be enlisted to refer any uninsured individuals to this new waiver program.

We look forward to sharing information with about this proposed program option for Medicaid coverage with our networks and with the thousands of individuals contacting all Arc of Illinois programs each year for assistance.

We also have extensive health and human-service related resources available to share with consumers and care coordinators who will be involved with this much-needed initiative, including our extensive resource database which is part of the Illinois Life Span project: <http://www.illinoislifespan.org/providers/index.asp> and our large array of consumer education materials and toolkits (in both English and Spanish) from our Family to Family Health Information Center: <http://www.familyvoicesillinois.org/index.asp>.

We look forward to collaborating with you on this essential program which will provide access to care for vulnerable uninsured adults in Cook County.

Sincerely,

Tony Paulauski
Executive Director

Faye Manaster
Family to Family Project Director

Michael Kaminsky
Illinois Life Span Project Director