



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

**Department of
Health and Social Services**

DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES
Director's Office

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September 5, 2014

Commissioner William Streur
Department of Health and Social Services
P.O. 240249
Anchorage, Alaska 99524-0249

Dear Commissioner Streur:

Thank you for the support and resources you have provided the Medical Care Advisory Committee. The insight gained, in the course of our travels to various communities, throughout the State of Alaska for MCAC meetings, has allowed the committee to meet one on one with Medicaid Recipients and Providers addressing specific problems and directing them to appropriate agencies for help.

One of the goals of the MCAC's Results Based Accountability Work Plan (RBA) is to continually work on garnering public testimony from Medicaid Consumers and Providers. This past year has seen an increase in public testimony at our meetings allowing participants to bring forward their concerns and there have been many.

Awareness was gained, by all, from those who brought their concerns forward to the committee table. This insight was due in part to the active participation of Director Margaret Brodie who was always available to answer any concerns and forward on suggestions. Should additional follow-up be needed she saw that it was done quickly with information being forwarded on to those that needed to be informed and action taken. The committee has gained considerably from her openness and informative approach and appreciates the opportunity to work with her.

The MCAC FY 2014 Policy Recommendations for the Medicaid Program are as follows:

Recommend:

- We believe Director Margaret Brodie has been exemplary in her performance as Medicaid Director. The MCAC suggests she be considered for appointment to the position of Deputy Commissioner of Department of Health and Social Services. This could compound her effectiveness when executing strategies across other Divisions.
- Adoption of a Family Planning State Plan Amendment to include persons up to 200% Federal Poverty Guideline. This group would otherwise be eligible for Denali Kid Care if pregnant. Providing family planning services would save the Medicaid Program money that would otherwise be spent on prenatal care for unplanned pregnancies.

- Regarding required review of Senior and Disability Assessments, we recommend that the State select the most effective scoring tool: the person is either improved, the same, or worse. The preferred tool should be easily executed by the patient's health provider.
- Aggressively address delinquent backlog of Senior and Disability Services Assessments by contracting with outside agents.
- Assertively pursue 1915(i) Waiver to provide services for ADRD Home and Community Based Services and Institutional Care. Fourteen states have adopted the Medicaid 1915(i) waiver option in their Medicaid State Plans. Submit a State Plan amendment to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) for review and approval of this waiver option.

The committee continues to work on its RBA work plan and to further increased outreach participation through the implementation of its new communication plan.

The recommendations are based on the unanimous consensus of the committee. We thank you for the privilege of allowing the members of the committee to participate in the difficult task of improving healthcare in a time of increasing budget constraints and escalating need.

Sincerely,



Tracy Charles-Smith, Chair
Medical Care Advisory Committee



Lorilyn E. Swanson, Vice Chair
Medical Care Advisory Committee

Medical Care Advisory Committee Members 2014

Rena Axelson
Dr. Dan Kiley, DDS
Dr. Joy Neyhart, DO
Mark Walker, LCSW

Shelly Deering, RN, BSN, CCRN
Catriona Lowe Reynolds
Renee A. Stoll, RPH

CC: Margaret Brodie, Director Medicaid Services