



# State of New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

129 PLEASANT STREET, CONCORD, NH 03301-3857  
603-271-4688 FAX: 603-271-4912 TDD ACCESS: 1-800-735-2964

NICHOLAS A. TOUMPAS  
COMMISSIONER

October 14, 2011

Dear Stakeholder:

I am writing to inform you of an important change that impacts the Bureau of Behavioral Health (BBH). For the past 2 ½ years we have been working closely with our community partners to establish a Prepaid Ambulatory Health Plan (PAHP). The intent of the PAHP was to establish a separate managed care approach to cover services for adults, children and families who currently receive services through New Hampshire's ten community mental health centers.

During the last budget session, SB 147 was passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Lynch. Many of you may be familiar with SB 147 – this is the legislation that requires the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to implement managed care for New Hampshire's Medicaid population. The original intent was to have BBH continue to pursue the establishment of the PAHP, which would cover community mental health services, while at the same time the Department would develop a Request for Proposals (RFP) to establish a managed care plan for all other Medicaid services.

After significant deliberation, I made the decision to stop work on the PAHP and instead bring all community mental health services under the current Medicaid Care Management Services RFP, which will be released shortly.

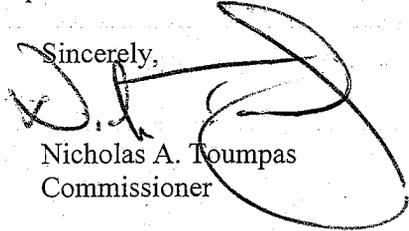
I am appreciative of the commitment of time the community mental health centers, consumers and family members, and other stakeholder groups have made in working with BBH to help formulate a proposal and model tailored specifically to the needs of adults and children with mental illness. This decision is not based on the merits of the proposal or the quality of work that has gone into developing the proposed PAHP model for New Hampshire.

The Department, however, is faced with a number of significant constraints, each of which has led to this decision. SB 147 envisions a managed care program that covers all Medicaid recipients in New Hampshire. In developing the RFP, there needs to be assurances within the process that we are able to move a proposal forward that meets all of the objectives outlined in the legislation, including an ability to attract several highly qualified Managed Care Organizations that will ultimately be held at full risk for the health and performance outcomes, as well as allow the Department to meet the mandated savings that are tied to this initiative.

Our Department will continue to ensure that the principles that were such an integral part of the development of the PAHP model are incorporated into the managed care RFP and, ultimately, into the contracts that are signed with the Managed Care Organizations. BBH has been involved in the development of the managed care RFP and has provided critical input to ensure that access to community mental health services is maintained as part of the overall managed care program the Department is pursuing. It also played a significant role in providing information from the extensive stakeholder meetings that were held to ensure that those key principles are incorporated into the RFP.

I want to stress that we are still fairly early on in this process. The current timeframe established by the Legislature has an implementation date of July 1, 2012. We will continue to keep you informed through the DHHS webpage on the progress of the Care Management Program specific to this initiative and welcome your input and feedback.

Sincerely,



Nicholas A. Toumpas  
Commissioner