

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES

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February 2, 2015

RE: South Dakota Home and Community Based Services Statewide Transition Plan

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published new regulations that define the settings in which states can provide Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). The final rule became effective March 17, 2014 to ensure people receive Medicaid HCBS in home and work settings that are integrated in and support full access to the greater community. At the October 9, 2014 Medicaid Tribal Consultation meeting, the Department of Social Services presented an overview of the final rule. The slides from that presentation are available online: <http://dss.sd.gov/medicaid/generalinfo/tribalconsultation.aspx>

The new regulations require the Department of Social Services to develop a transition plan to ensure that settings meet the new CMS settings requirements. The Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Department of Human Services (DHS) formed a collaborative workgroup representing each of the four Medicaid waivers and the state Medicaid agency. The workgroup assessed compliance with the HCBS Settings final rule and drafted the transition plan to identify action steps and timelines for South Dakota's compliance with the new rule. At the January 8, 2015 Medical Tribal Consultation Meeting, DSS and DHS presented the draft action items for the transition plan. The slides from that presentation are available online: <http://dss.sd.gov/medicaid/generalinfo/tribalconsultation.aspx>

Federal regulations also require states to obtain public input regarding the transition plan and to make the transition plan available to the public. The transition plan is available online at <http://dss.sd.gov/medicaid/hcbs.aspx>

Currently, there are no Indian Health Service (IHS) or Tribal-owned HCBS settings enrolled as a residential provider for a South Dakota Medicaid waiver. Any IHS or Tribal-owned facilities that wish to enroll as a Medicaid waiver provider in the future will need to be compliant with the HCBS final rule in order to enroll. 498 Native Americans currently receive HCBS waiver services through one of South Dakota's four Medicaid waivers. The transition plan has a direct effect on 321 individuals currently residing in Assisted Livings, Groups Homes, and Supervised Apartments.

The transition plan will be open for public comment for thirty days from February 2, 2015 to March 4, 2015. We encourage you to view the transition plan and share the link with other interested individuals. DSS appreciates your questions and comments. Comments may be made in four ways:

- 1) **E-Mail:** hcbs@state.sd.us

