

To: County BH-MCOs, Single County Authorities, Drug and Alcohol Providers and Substance use Stakeholder

From: Ted Dallas, Acting Secretary, Department of Human Services
Gary Tennis, Secretary, Department of Drug & Alcohol Programs

Date: February 6, 2015

Re: Behavioral Health Status Update/Issues with Transition to Healthy PA

We are writing to provide an update of our efforts to correct the issues that have arisen with the implementation of *Healthy PA*. Resolving these issues is a top priority for the Administration and DHS is committed to making the necessary enrollment adjustments to ensure that individuals receive no interruption in services and agencies are paid for services they deliver. We are committed that each individual's situation will be reviewed with the intent to move them to HealthChoices if they have a substance use or mental health need.

During the transition to the *Healthy PA* plan, a number of individuals with behavioral health needs were assigned and continue to be assigned to the PCO coverage rather than HealthChoices coverage. We understand that individuals who have substance use disorders and are either in or in need of treatment will be considered medically frail and will be matched to the Healthy Plus plan.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) are working closely to ensure eligible Medical Assistance (MA) recipients with behavioral health needs are enrolled in the plan that best fits their individual needs. Behavioral health providers have raised several issues concerning services for MA recipients with substance use or mental health needs. These concerns include confusion related to:

- Eligibility status in HealthChoices or the Private Coverage Option (PCO),
- The process for transitioning back to HealthChoices when appropriate, and
- Payment uncertainties resulting for the agencies.

With your assistance, we have been able to identify approximately 8,500 affected MA recipients to date.

Action Plan

- DHS recently assigned 20 staff members to review these cases of these individuals. We are happy to announce that we have re-enrolled over 4,600 individuals retroactively into HealthChoices and we are in the process of finalizing the remaining cases.
- Our target date is February 15 to process all remaining cases.
- As individual situations are addressed and BH-MCO's notified, providers can retroactively bill the appropriate BH-MCO back to the date of enrollment in the PCO.

DHS staff are making steady progress each day and will not stop until all identified individuals have been reviewed and we have taken appropriate action. We will continue to provide progress reports until everyone is appropriately assigned.

If you have questions or additional concerns please contact the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services' administrative office at 717.787.6443. Inquiries may also be submitted by email to Steven Remillard at Sremillard@PA.gov.