

June 5, 2012

Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Attention: Victoria Wachino
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-26-12
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850

RE: Kansas 1115 "KanCare" Demonstration Application Dated April 26, 2012

Ms. Wachino:

I am writing regarding the Section 1115 demonstration application that the State of Kansas submitted on April 26, 2012 to implement the "KanCare" program.

The State of Kansas is strongly committed to consultation with tribal governments, Indian Health Services (IHS) providers, and Urban Indian Organizations (I/T/U). Tribal governments and I/T/U providers have been included in broader KanCare stakeholder communications since the summer of 2011, when invitations were extended to Medicaid reform public forums by email. The State also participated in a Feb. 22, 2012, consultation meeting with representatives of four tribal governments. However, it has come to our attention that notice was not issued to the White Cloud Health Station and the Haskell Health Center, and for this reason the tribal consultation process approved under our Medicaid State Plan was not met.

Because of the State's commitment to a thorough consultation with all tribal government and I/T/U providers, and the unique circumstances of American Indians and I/T/U providers, we have concluded that further consultation regarding KanCare is appropriate. At the same time, we will also provide for broader public comment consistent with the transparency process established in the CMS regulations that became effective April 27, 2012. Therefore, we ask that you not consider our April 26, 2012, submission to be a formal proposal; we will send you a formal proposal once our consultation and public comment processes are complete.

We appreciate your openness to working with the State throughout this process and look forward to continuing our conversation as we work towards the January 1, 2013, implementation of KanCare.

Sincerely,

/Kari M. Bruffett/

Kari M. Bruffett
Director, Division of Health Care Finance
Kansas Department of Health and Environment

By email