

NEW YORK
state department of
HEALTH

Nirav R. Shah, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

Sue Kelly
Executive Deputy Commissioner

August 17, 2012

Chief Roger Hill
Council Chairman
Tonawanda Seneca Indian Nation
Administration office
7027 Meadville Road
Basom, NY 14013

Dear Chief Hill:

In July 1997, New York State received approval from the federal government of its Section 1115 waiver request, known as the Partnership Plan. Approval of this waiver allowed the State to implement a mandatory Medicaid managed care program in counties with sufficient managed care capacity and the infrastructure to manage the education and enrollment processes essential to a mandatory program. On September 29, 2006, The Center for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) approved an extension of the Partnership Plan for the period beginning October 1, 2006 and ending September 30, 2010. CMS subsequently approved a series of short term extensions while negotiations continued on renewing the waiver into 2014. On July 29, 2011, CMS approved a renewal for the period August 1, 2011 through December 31, 2014.

This letter is to notify you that New York State will request an extension of the existing 1115 Partnership Plan waiver from the federal government. As indicated in our June 6, 2012 letter, New York is already pursuing an amendment to the state's Partnership Plan. This extension will allow the state to fully implement its care management vision set out by the Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT).

Details about the MRT waiver are available on the state's MRT waiver website at http://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign/mrt_waiver.htm. The full extension request will be posted to this site shortly. Additionally, you are invited to sign up for an email list serve which will provide updates throughout the waiver public engagement and application process at http://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign/listserv.htm.

As you know, under the state's Section 1115 Demonstration programs, Native Americans with Medicaid coverage may enroll in managed care plans but are not required to do so. This waiver extension request will not alter this exemption from mandatory enrollment for Native Americans. In addition, for Native Americans who choose to enroll in managed care plans, existing policies relating to tribal providers will be continued. We anticipate this extension will have minimal impact on Tribal Nations.

My office has scheduled a conference call to provide an overview of the waiver extension process and to take any questions you may have.

The call is scheduled for Friday, August 24, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. If you would like to participate, please use the following call-in information:

Call-in #: 1-866-394-2346
Conference Code: 105 726 8043#

If you're not able to participate, or have additional comments, please forward any questions or input regarding this waiver extension to my office by Tuesday, August 28, 2012. We look forward to your continued collaboration.

Sincerely,



Jason A. Helgerson
Medicaid Director
Office of Health Insurance Programs

cc: Vennetta Harrison
Karina Aguilar