

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-26-12
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850

Center for Medicaid and State Operations, Family and Children's Health Programs Group

April 1, 2010

Ms. Roberta K. Bradford
Deputy Secretary for Medicaid
Agency for Health Care Administration
2727 Mahan Drive, MS #8
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Dear Ms. Bradford:

We are pleased to inform you that your Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) State plan amendment (SPA) submitted on September 29, 2009, has been approved.

This amendment reduces the period of uninsurance for the voluntary cancellation of group health insurance coverage from 6 months to 60 days and provides good cause exemptions to the waiting period; increases the dental benefit limit to \$1000 per member per year; removes limitations for mental health and substance abuse services; utilizes electronic verification of income; provides clinically eligible children with the choice of enrolling in the Children's Medical Services Network (CMSN) or MediKids or Healthy Kids. It also updates the outreach section of the State plan; reduces the nonpayment of premium grace period from 60 to 30 days; and clarifies the KidCare dispute and grievance process. This amendment has a retroactive effective date of July 1, 2009, for all provisions, with the exception of October 1, 2009, for the removal of limitations for mental health and substance abuse services.

It is our understanding that the State will be working through this upcoming legislative session to ensure that the dental benefits provided through the State plan meet the statutory requirements of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA). CMS continues to be available, should you need technical assistance.

Your title XXI project officer is Ms. Crystal Francis. She is available to answer questions concerning this amendment and other CHIP-related issues. Ms. Francis' contact information is as follows:

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Center for Medicaid and State Operations
Mail Stop S2-01-16
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850
Telephone: (410) 786-4626
Facsimile: (410) 786-5882
E-mail: Crystal.Francis@cms.hhs.gov

Official communications regarding program matters should be sent simultaneously to Ms. Francis and to Ms. Mary Kaye Justis, Acting Associate Regional Administrator for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Region IV, Division of Medicaid and State Operations. Ms. Justis' address is:

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Division of Medicaid and State Operations
Atlanta Federal Center – 4th Floor
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Suite 4T20
Atlanta, GA 30303-8909

If you have additional questions, please contact Ms. Victoria Wachino, Director, Family and Children's Health Programs Group, Center for Medicaid and State Operations, at (410) 786-5647.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff.

Sincerely,

/s/

Cindy Mann
Director

cc: Ms. Mary Kaye Justis, Acting Associate Regional Administrator, CMS Region IV Office