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Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Division of Youth & Family Services
PO Box 717
Trenton, NJ 08625-0717

ALLISON BLAKE, PH.D., L.S.W.
Commissioner

May 2, 2011

Dear Resource Parent:

I am writing to thank you for partnering with the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) in ensuring that children in DYFS out of home placement are receiving the preventative and on going health care that they need as part of our shared goal of child well being. I am also writing to let you know of important changes to the NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid program that may impact children currently in your care and/or those who you may care for in the future.

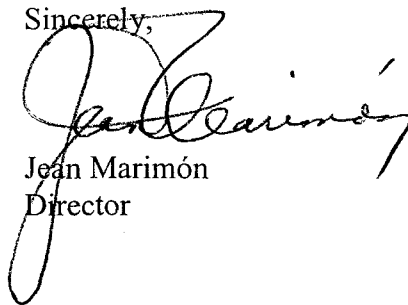
Beginning July 1, 2011, it will become mandatory for clients in the NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid program to receive their health benefits through a Medicaid Managed Care Program (HMO). *Please note that the large majority of children in DYFS out of home placements are already enrolled in a Medicaid HMO, and thus, will not be impacted.* However, for any child receiving health benefits through the Medicaid Fee For Service program, it is important to begin planning to select an HMO that will best work for the child in your care.

Health benefits will be offered through one of the four (4) participating managed care health plans (also called HMOs) in the NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid program. If children in your care are impacted by this change, you should receive a "Ready to Enroll" packet of information in a large white envelope from the NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid program which will arrive in the mail. This envelope will have information to help you select a managed care health plan along with contact information for getting your questions answered. *In the meantime, please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions document enclosed for additional details.*

If a child in your care is impacted, you may also work with your DYFS Child Health Unit nurse to assist you with making an HMO selection that works best for the child in your care.

I thank you for your partnership in caring for New Jersey's children and looking after the well being of children in our care.

Sincerely,



Jean Marimón
Director

Frequently Asked Questions for DYFS Caregivers Regarding HMO Enrollment

How will the change requiring Medicaid recipients to enroll in an HMO impact children in my care?

Effective July 1, Medicaid recipients will be required to enroll in a managed care program. Upon the adoption of the State Fiscal Year 2012 budget, individuals in the Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare program must be enrolled in one of New Jersey's four (4) Medicaid Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs).

The requirement to be in managed care may have no impact on children you care for as the large majority of children in DYFS out of home placements are already enrolled in Medicaid Managed Care.

If you have any children in your care who are not in a Medicaid HMO, now is the time to review the plans available and seek assistance in selecting a plan that will meet your family's needs. Your DYFS Child Health Unit Nurse, DYFS case worker, and others are available to assist as needed.

How do I enroll child(ren) in my care into an HMO?

You will soon receive a packet of information from Medicaid called "Ready to Enroll." The information in the packet may be helpful in selecting a health plan.

Once your selection has been made, you may enroll by calling 1-800-701-0710 or 1-866-472-5338 (TTY 800-701-0720) and completing the process by phone.

What changes can I expect after July 1 when I enroll a child in my care in an HMO?

The HMO is charged with ensuring that your child's care continues after enrollment without interruption. There will be no immediate changes to the providers you use or medications the child receives.

Once you are enrolled, the HMO will do an assessment of your child's needs. Any changes to your care plans or your providers will be discussed with you at that time. They will assist you in making the necessary changes to ensure your child continues to receive services and medications as needed. Referrals will be required in order to receive care from specialists.

Additionally, DYFS children enrolled in Medicaid Managed Care are assigned to an HMO care manager. The care manager may contact you by phone to discuss the child's health status and can assist you with identifying any special care that may be needed.

Who can I call for assistance or with questions?

The child's case worker or DYFS Child Health Unit nurse may be able to assist you. Assistance will be available to you from the NJ FamilyCare program at 1-866-472-5338 (TTY 800-701-0720) and/or from the Medicaid Customer Assistance Center. Information about the nearest MACC can be obtained from the Medicaid Hotline at 1-800-356-1561. If you still have questions or need further assistance, you may call the DCF Office of Child Health Services at 609-633-8421.