

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-14-26
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850
Center for Medicaid and State Operations
Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group (DEHFG)



JAN 08 2008

Cristal Thomas, Deputy Director
Office of Ohio Health Plans
Ohio Department of Job & Family Services
P.O. Box 182709
50 West Town Street, Suite 400
Columbus, Ohio 43218

Dear Ms. Thomas:

Thank you for your letter regarding Ohio's 1915(c) Home and Community based Services (HCBS) waivers for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Specifically, your letter requested our consideration of a second extension of previously negotiated and agreed upon timeframes for completion of Ohio's new waiver reimbursement system. Full implementation of this task will bring the Ohio HCBS waivers into compliance with Medicaid statute, regulations and policy. To fully transition all waiver participants to the new statewide waiver reimbursement system, you requested an additional six (6) month, extending the deadline to June 30, 2008.

As we discussed with your staff at the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, I have agreed to grant one last additional extension for six (6) months for implementation. The expected completion date to the new reimbursement methodology is June 30, 2008. For the past three and a half years, we have continued to provide Federal Financial Participation under the prior reimbursement methodology. At the end of this final extension, if Ohio has yet to transition all waiver participants who share Homemaker/Personal Care services, Ohio will be financially responsible for this difference.

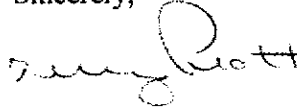
We are committed to working with you during this period to ensure that all measurable milestones are achieved within the revised timeframe of no later than June 30, 2008. To that end, I request that ODJFS provide a monthly written summary on the transition progress, as well as specific and measurable deliverables, including numerical data indicating the number and percentage of successful transitions as well as individuals remaining to transition for each month until completion. Analysts at both the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Central and Regional Offices will work with your staff on the structure and submittal procedures for this information.

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For further questions, please do not hesitate to contact April Forsythe, Central office HCBS analyst at 410-786-9114.

Sincerely,



Gale P. Arden
Director

cc:

Suzanne Bosstick, DCIS Director

April Forsythe, Central Office

Gwen Sampson, Chicago Regional Office

Gina Rodriguez, Chicago Regional Office