

Minnesota PMAP+ Demonstration Senator Marty Communication History

Issue: On January 26, 2012, Minnesota State Senator Marty wrote to Cindy requesting that CMS investigate Minnesota's managed care organizations. This letter refers to the Senator's May, June, and September 2011 letters to CMS.

History: During last year's renewal of MN's PMAP+ 1115 Demonstration, CMS received letters from several stakeholders (including Senator Marty's May 18, 2011 letter) expressing concern with the management of Medicaid funds by PMAP+ MCOs, and quality and access under these entities. DSDW followed up on these concerns with our Managed Care experts and FMG; internally, we were not aware of any complaints/concerns about access or quality, and in general MN's MCOs were well regarded. CMS held a call with the stakeholders on June 17, 2011. In light of the concerns expressed by the stakeholders and the Governor's executive order regarding managed care transparency, DSDW added STC language addressing the managed care bidding and contracting process into the requirements for the annual report (STC 43(a)).

Following the approval of the Demonstration renewal on June 30th, Senator Marty's office reached out via email (July 18th, 2011) to request another conference call to discuss the renewal process and the STCs. A second conference call was held on August 2nd; while Senator Marty was unable to attend a staff member was there in his place. The stakeholders had four areas of concern: (1) the need for a truly independent third party audit of MN's 1115; (2) what happened during renewal negotiations between CMS and MN; (3) were any STC changes due to the stakeholders' concerns; and (4) what is the significance of requiring the HMOs to file financial statements with CMS? The stakeholders did not provide any information to support their claims regarding mismanagement by the MCOs. CMS agreed to try to facilitate a call between the State Medicaid agency and the stakeholders.

On August 24th DSDW received a follow-up letter via email (dated 8/9/2011) from the stakeholders and on September 6th DSDW received via email a letter from Senator Marty, both following up on the August 2nd call. In this letter, Senator Marty continued to express concern regarding the mismanagement of the PMAP program. During later September/early October, DSDW worked with the State to arrange another conference call, one that would include the SMD (David Godfrey) or one of his representatives. David stated that he did not want to participate in a conference call and asked that we stop meeting with this group. One of Sen. Marty's staff reached out on November 3rd via phone to inquire about the status of a response to Sen. Marty's 9/6 letter and the stakeholders' 8/9 letter; no response was generated, pending further consideration of how best to address the situation given the State's rejection of a joint call and that DSDW has already had two conference calls to discuss the stakeholders concerns.

Current Status: On 1/29 Cindy shared Sen. Marty's January letter with CAHPG. DSDW responded on 1/30 to provide some background on the situation and [REDACTED] (b)(5) [REDACTED] The January letter has not yet been received as a SWIFT.