



Tracy J. Plouck, Director
John R. Kasich, Governor



John R. Kasich, Governor
John B. McCarthy, Director

August 14, 2013

Dear Stakeholders:

The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (MHAS) have been working to bring up an innovative new service for individuals with serious and persistent mental illness and emotional disorders – the Medicaid health home. After the initial launch of phase one last September in Lucas, Butler, Scioto, Adams and Lawrence counties, many lessons were learned and extra time was taken in order to ensure that the health home service is targeted toward the right individuals and providers and is sustainable over the long term.

In mid-July, ODM and MHAS filed rules to effect changes to the health home program. This action was met with concern from some of our partners in the mental health field. Particularly, questions regarding enrollment criteria and tiered rate reimbursement were articulated to state leadership.

After considerable thought and discussion, ODM and MHAS have decided to delay the health home rule packages in order to make key changes to the originally proposed rule filings. We are doing this in order to ensure the success of this initiative, to properly address the concerns that have been brought to our attention, and to guarantee the sustainability of this program within the current budget. Since the rule packages are being delayed rather than withdrawn, public hearings will still be held on August 16 (MHAS) and August 20 (ODM) in accordance with state statute requirements, and both rules will be placed in “to be refiled” status soon thereafter. This action will simply stop the clock on the rules, allowing for the state to make necessary revisions. A subsequent public hearing will be scheduled to take input after the rules are refiled and back within the jurisdiction of the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review.

Stay tuned for further information as work continues on this critical project. Updates will be included in the OhioMHAS publication “Health Home Highlights” along with other important information on training and technical assistance in support of the health home initiative. To subscribe, please visit <http://mha.ohio.gov/Default.aspx?tabid=375>.

Sincerely,

Tracy Plouck
Director, OhioMHAS

John McCarthy
Director, Ohio Department of Medicaid