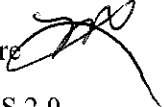


**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE  
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION**

**DATE:** June 10, 2016

**TO:** Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, Milwaukee County Board; Supervisor Supreme Moore Omokunde, Chair, Health and Human Needs; Supervisor Sequanna Taylor, Vice Chair, Health and Human Needs

**FROM:** Maria Ledger, Director, My Choice Family Care 

**SUBJECT:** Informational Only Report on Family Care/IRIS 2.0

With Family Care/IRIS 2.0 the State of Wisconsin proposes to integrate behavioral health, acute, and primary care into the current long term care service delivery system.

For 15 years My Choice Family Care (MCFC) has had the honor of providing services to older adults and people with disabilities. We have done so in a manner that respects members dignity, honors their personal choices and we have always been mindful of the need to be good stewards of public dollars. MCFC looks forward to many more years of providing care and services to our members. We want to continue to be the Family Care provider of choice in Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Waukesha, Washington, Sheboygan, Walworth, Racine and Kenosha. And starting in July, we expect to offer the Family Care benefit in Rock County as well.

My Choice Family Care firmly believes a local, community based organization is the best choice to provide the services so important to older adults and people with disabilities in our community. This is even more critical as we face the single largest change to Wisconsin's human services system in over 15 years.

MCFC requested and received approval from both the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors and the County Executive to legally separate from Milwaukee County, an action necessary before we can submit the HMO license required for Family Care/IRIS 2.0.

My Choice has created the new entity with Board approval. The valuations are completed for the Asset Transfer Agreement and My Choice has already set up the necessary organizational systems to support a separate, nonprofit. My Choice has been able to negotiate preferred pricing for such things as health insurance, general liability, and workers comp and also creates more uncertainty and more staff turnover.

Our fiscal team is now running parallel General Ledger systems and ready to fully deploy a separate system.

The employment contract between My Choice and Milwaukee County is completed and guarantees that no County staff will lose their jobs because of this change.

The State must assign our existing Family Care contract to our new entity so that we can apply for an HMO license. We recently received the certification standards necessary for this contract assignment and have made an initial submission to the State.

The process by which MCFC is seeking to assume the Family Care contract was clearly defined by the State Legislature in its revisions to Wis. Stats. Chapter 46. Those changes set parameters for a change of

entity by a managed care organization, including the transfer of MCO assets, and demonstrate a clear legislative intent to provide an opportunity for all MCOs to pursue participation in Family Care 2.0.

As some of you know, the Secretary of the Department of Health Services “withdrew” her IRIS/Family Care 2.0 concept paper for Joint Finance Committee review on June 10, 2016.

Regardless of that action, there is no doubt that DHS will move forward with a new model of care whether it is the next budget or simply after the November election. As Secretary Rhoades states, “I remain committed to the goal of an integrated outcome-based care model that coordinates all of an individual’s care needs.”

Based on the comments above, we are confident that another proposal for integrated care will be drafted, whether it is an expansion of Partnership or some other model. Any integrated program, regardless of what is called, will require us to have an HMO license. In order to obtain the HMO, we must be separate from the County. If we had not moved forward when we did, there is no chance that we would be in a position to sustain the program when the next iteration is announced.

This has been a very stressful time for everyone and we are very appreciative of the hard work that has gone on both in this initiative as well as in maintaining high quality day to day operations.

Together with the Comptroller's Office, DAS and Corporation Counsel, we have crafted agreements that insure that the County is left in a positive financial position as My Choice splits off and no employees will be laid off.

The large nationwide HMOs are continuing to hire staff specifically for Family Care/IRIS 2.0. We received notification that United Health Care is recruiting for the following position: Healthcare Director, Long Term Care, Business Development and Provider Network Contracting – Wisconsin.

United Health Care has also recently hired the former Chief Operations Officer of another MCO in Milwaukee County to serve as their Executive Director of Long Term Supports and Service.

I note these new hires because it signals very loudly that the large, for profit HMOs know that the integrated model is still very much on the table.

Without the support of the County Board of Supervisors and the County Executive, we would not be able to maintain this highly successful program now and into the future. You all had the vision to see what needed to be done and the courage to do it and we thank you for that.

We value the support of the Board as we make this very critical transition. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any further questions.

Cc: County Executive Chris Abele  
Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, Office of the County Executive  
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board  
Allyson Smith, Committee Coordinator  
Erica Hayden, Analyst, County Board Staff  
Jim Hodson, Chief Financial Officer, MCFC