

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION**

DATE: May 16, 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 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.

We know that the State must assign our existing Family Care contract to our new entity so that we can apply for an HMO license. While we do not have a timeframe from the State for that action, the sooner we are able to complete this step, the sooner we can move forward towards applying to be an Integrated Health Agency providing services under Family Care/IRIS 2.0.

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.

At the State level, the Department of Health Services has submitted their "Family Care/IRIS 2.0 Concept Paper" to the Joint Finance Committee (JFC). Committee members have many

questions about the concept paper and there is a considerable amount of advocacy on all sides of the issue.

Some of the more intensely debated point are the number of regions or “zones”, the number of IHA’s, whether the existing MCOs have a clear path forward and what real savings can be expected, especially as Medicare is not included in the Family Care/IRIS 2.0 model.

As of today’s date, the Joint Finance Committee has not scheduled a hearing on this matter. When a hearing is scheduled, the Department of Health Services fully expects JFC approval and states that when they receive it, they will then submit their waiver request to the Federal Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) for approval.

Cc: County Executive Chris Abele
Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, Office of the County Executive
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board
Supreme Moore Omokunde, Chairman, Health and Human Needs
Allyson Smith, Committee Coordinator
Erica Hayden, Analyst, County Board Staff
Jim Hodson, Chief Financial Officer, MCFC