

March 2, 2015

Dear Balancing Incentive Program Stakeholders,

I am writing to share with you a decision made regarding the Balancing Incentive Program (BIP).

First, I want to express my appreciation to all who have contributed to the development of the BIP through the Advisory Council, work groups, and other input and analysis. Your work has been extremely valuable to the progress towards designing a comprehensive and coordinated system of Home and Community Based Services (HCBS).

The Department was deeply concerned with the extremely limited timeframe for Nebraska's ability to produce a successful project through the BIP grant. The enhanced funding must have been spent by the time the BIP ended on September 30, 2015, or committed by contract and paid out by the end of June, 2016. The Department was also concerned with providing CMS with assurances of operationalizing the infrastructure changes by the September 30th deadline, and sustaining the infrastructure changes and the enhanced services required of the project.

In response, a "Plan B" has been developed by the Department, and supported by Senator Bolz, that will continue the systemic goals of the Balancing Incentive Program of a "no wrong door/ single point of entry" system and standardized assessments, without participating in the BIP. This approach is cost effective (costing less in state funds than continuing the BIP plan as originally appropriated in LB 690) and contributes positively to the key goals of promoting home and community based care and linking people to the right service at the right time.

Nebraska Medicaid remains committed to other components of the BIP as well, such as promoting client choice and mitigation of conflict between case management and service provisions.

Many of you were involved in the Department's work on Managed Long-Term Services and Supports (MLTSS). The Department plans to resume that work at our earliest opportunity. The timeline will be based upon implementation of other crucial Department strategic initiatives. Additional information and updates will be made available on the DHHS website, http://dhhs.ne.gov/medicaid/Pages/medicaid_index.aspx

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Courtney Miller, Deputy Director
Division of Medicaid & Long-Term Care
Department of Health and Human Services