



STATE OF OKLAHOMA
OKLAHOMA HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

I/T/U Public Notice 2009-01

April 16, 2009

RE: Update on Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) Waivers and Impact on Indian Health Service/ Tribal/ Urban Indian Clinic Providers

Dear Provider:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with updated information as it relates to the activities of the seven waivers administered by OHCA. Two waivers are 1115 research and demonstration waivers, while the other five are 1915(c) home- and community-based services waivers. As you review the information below, please note that your comments and questions are welcome. We continue to solicit your ongoing consultation about the programs and services we offer.

SoonerCare Choice and Insure Oklahoma are operated under our largest 1115 waiver. This waiver was recently approved for a change in delivery system for SoonerCare Choice to primary care case management (PCCM.) We notified you regarding this change in October 2008. Further, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved the voluntary enrollment of children in the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS) and SoonerCare Choice tribal custody. CMS also approved an expansion of Insure Oklahoma to include full-time college students ages 19 through 22 whose income is less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL). At this time, CMS is considering an amendment request to the SoonerCare Choice program that would approve payments for up to four Health Access Network (HAN) pilot sites. The HANs provide clinical and other services to support the members and providers in the SoonerCare Choice patient-centered medical homes. OHCA plans to submit to CMS an extension request by June 30, 2009 to extend the SoonerCare Choice and Insure Oklahoma demonstration for three years, 2010 through 2012.

CMS is currently reviewing a State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) state plan amendment to establish a separate, free-standing SCHIP program and to request eligibility for an additional population of dependent children less than 19 years of age with household income from 186 to 300 percent of the FPL. Once approved, this population will be eligible for Insure Oklahoma regardless of their parent's employer size. Our next waiver amendment requests to the 1115 waiver will be to ask CMS to approve the addition of new adult populations to be covered under Insure Oklahoma. We will seek waiver approval to cover working adults without disabilities, college students, and foster parents with household income through 300 percent FPL. Foster parents who meet the income guidelines will be eligible regardless of employer size. We will also seek waiver approval for working adults employed at non-profit businesses with fewer than 500 employees and with household income through 300 percent FPL.

The other 1115 waiver OHCA operates is SoonerPlan, offering family planning services for men and women 19 and older with household income up to 185 percent FPL. This waiver is approved through March 31, 2010. No modifications to this waiver are planned at this time unless appropriated dollars become available.

An amendment to update the language in the ADvantage waiver to more accurately reflect its current operations will be prepared for CMS in coming months. The ADvantage waiver, one of our five 1915(c) home- and community-based waivers serves the frail elderly population 65 and older, and adults with physical disabilities that qualify for nursing facility placement. ADvantage is administered by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services/ Aging Services Division.

Waiver amendments have also been proposed for CMS consideration to introduce self-directed habilitation training specialist services and individual goods and services in the In-home Supports Waivers for Children and Adults that is administered by the OKDHS/ Developmental Disabilities Services Division for OHCA. These waivers are also 1915(c) waivers.

At this time, the impact of the waiver amendments on tribal health care facilities is anticipated to be minimal, except that more formerly uninsured Oklahomans will now have Insure Oklahoma coverage through either Employer Sponsored Insurance or the Individual Plan. Further, we expect that any tribal members served in these waiver programs may experience greater satisfaction with their services as an individual waiver is modified. If you have any questions or comments about the approved or recommended changes in our waiver programs, please contact Trevlyn Cross, Director of the SoonerCare Indian Health Unit. She can be reached at 405-522-7303 and by e-mail at Trevlyn.Cross@okhca.org.

Thank you for your continued service to Oklahoma's SoonerCare and Insure Oklahoma members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Fogarty". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Mike Fogarty