



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

August 20, 2015

Tim Engelhardt, Acting Director
Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington DC 20201

RE: Intent to pursue extension opportunity of Medicare-Medicaid alignment demonstration

Dear Tim,

I was pleased to receive your letter dated July 15, 2015 offering an opportunity to extend the scheduled end date for Minnesota's demonstration to align administrative functions for Medicare-Medicaid beneficiaries. Minnesota would like to pursue this extension opportunity for the full two years offered in your letter. This will allow the State to further address the demonstration's MOU objectives.

The State of Minnesota has a unique, administratively-focused demonstration, which builds on the state's well-established integrated Medicare-Medicaid program, Minnesota Senior Health Options (MSHO). This unique demonstration design makes an important contribution to integration efforts by utilizing existing Medicare D-SNP contracting opportunities and includes objectives and processes which differ from the Financial Alignment Demonstrations (FADs). Significant delays have occurred throughout the demonstration due to these unique considerations and processes. Additional time to carry out these initiatives is in the best interest of MMCO and the State and will support stability and sustainability of outcomes.

Minnesota has diligently sustained stakeholder engagement throughout this demonstration by facilitating quarterly stakeholder meetings, sending a monthly stakeholder email update, utilizing stakeholder networks for feedback on various issues, and holding a large stakeholder conference

Minnesota's demonstration is a model for other states and has provided CMS MMCO with information and testing opportunities to ascertain how best to support states integrating Medicare and Medicaid using a D-SNP platform. I believe it would be in the best interest of all stakeholders of Medicare-Medicaid integration to allow Minnesota to continue the current demonstration to further support administrative alignment.

Tim Engelhardt, Acting Director

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Thank you for the opportunity to request a demonstration extension. I look forward to working with CMS MMCO to ensure the demonstration is able to continue to support further improvements in Medicare-Medicaid beneficiary experience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marie Zimmerman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marie Zimmerman, Medicaid Director

cc: Ravya Virginkar (via email)