



STATE OF OKLAHOMA
OKLAHOMA HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

I/T/U Public Notice 2009-03

September 2, 2009

Dear Tribal Representative:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of two new waiver programs to be implemented by the Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) in 2010. We are seeking your input in the planning and development of the new waivers, My Life; My Choice and Sooner Seniors. These waiver programs are authorized by the 1915(c) Medicaid Home and Community-Based Waiver program. The Opportunities for Living Life Division of the OHCA will administer these programs.

In January 2007, the OHCA was awarded a five-year Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration Grant by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Through the MFP grant, we plan to transition approximately 2,000 SoonerCare members from nursing facilities and public institutions to suitable housing in the community. In Oklahoma, the MFP program is known as the Living Choice Project.

SoonerCare members participating in the Living Choice Project will be provided a transition coordinator to assist in the development of an individualized transition plan. The plan will determine the necessary services and supports required to live safely in the community. Transition coordinators will be available throughout the State of Oklahoma and will meet with each member at least monthly to ensure that his or her needs are met. SoonerCare members participating in the Living Choice Project will also have access to a range of services including personal care, dental services, transportation, first-time home establishment expenses and skilled nursing.

Following the first year of transition to the community, members participating in the Living Choice Project will transfer into one of two proposed waivers allowing SoonerCare members to continue receiving services in their home. Persons with physical disabilities in the Living Choice Project will transition into the My Life; My Choice waiver. Older persons with chronic illnesses in the Living Choice Project will transition into the Sooner Seniors waiver.

For your review and reference, the waiver drafts will be available on our OHCA website at www.okhca.org/hcbs beginning September 4, 2009. As you review these drafts,

please note that your comments and questions are important to us and are welcomed. You may submit them online at www.okhca.org/waivers.aspx. Your comments will be accepted through September 30, 2009.

We also invite you to attend a public meeting to provide an opportunity for open discussion about the Living Choice Project and the proposed waivers, scheduled for September 9, 2009 at 1:00 pm in the OHCA Boardroom. Please indicate in your online response if you would like to address the group during the meeting.

We look forward to working with you as we develop and implement these new programs that will provide our members with new alternatives to meet their health care needs. If you have any questions, please contact Avis Hill, Senior Program Manager for the Community Based Waiver unit. She can be reached at 405-522-7384 and by e-mail at Avis.Hill@okhca.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Lynn V. Mitchell, M.D., MPH". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Lynn Mitchell, M.D., MPH
State Medicaid Director