



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

December 22, 2015

Mr. Peter Kahrman
Kahrman Advocacy Coalition
P.O. Box 403
Accord, NY 12404

Dear Mr. Kahrman:

I am writing in response to your letter to New York State Commissioner of Health, Howard A. Zucker, M.D., J.D., regarding your concerns related to the transition of the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Nursing Home Transition and Diversion (NHTD) Medicaid waivers into Managed Care. The Department welcomes the opportunity to discuss relevant health care issues with all stakeholders including the TBI Services Coordinating Council (TBISCC).

In January 2011, Governor Cuomo issued an Executive Order aimed at redesigning New York's Medicaid program. As you are aware, since that time, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) has been involved in a collaborative approach to restructuring Medicaid for *all* of its service recipients. We remain committed to meeting the health care needs of New York residents and to taking innovative steps to reform the Medicaid program.

NYSDOH has completed many steps toward a phased-in transition to Managed Long Term Care (MLTC) throughout New York State. These efforts continue to improve quality of care and control costs. We support and recognize the importance of maintaining these services and the important role they play in providing access to health care and supportive services to these vulnerable populations. That is why the Department convened the stakeholder workgroup. Members of the TBISCC, numerous stakeholders, as well as yourself and members of the KAC, are engaged in an extensive discussion and exchange of ideas related to the transition.

As plans progress to move the TBI and NHTD waivers into a managed care model, we will continue to work collaboratively with participants, providers, and stakeholders. I hope you, members of the TBISCC and stakeholders will continue to be involved in this process and to share your recommendations. Please continue to monitor the Transition Workgroup's progress at: https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign/mrt_90.htm or, if you need additional information concerning the transition to managed care, you may contact the Waiver Transition workgroup via email at waivertransition@health.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

Mark L. Kissinger
Director, Division of Long Term Care
Office of Health Insurance Programs