

State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Medical Assistance Program Oversight Council

Legislative Office Building, Room 3000, Hartford, CT 06106
* (860) 240-0321 * Info Line (860) 240-8329 * FAX (860) 240-5306 *

www.cga.ct.gov/med/

Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman
State of Connecticut Office of the Lieutenant Governor
210 Capitol Avenue - Room 304
Hartford, CT 06106

October 27, 2016

Dear Lieutenant Governor Wyman and Members of the Health Care Cabinet,

As the Legislative body that oversees the State's Medicaid Program, HUSKY Health, the Medical Assistance Program Oversight Council (MAPOC) would like to provide you with some comments on the Health Care Cabinet's recommendations you are drafting in response to Public Act 15-146 and the strategies Bailit Health has presented.

At our last MAPOC meeting on October 14th, members generally agreed with the responses shared by the Department of Social Services (DSS) concerning the proposal. Just as for DSS, the Council's core value is to ensure that no harm is done to Connecticut's Medicaid members. For over a decade, MAPOC and its subcommittees has worked with DSS to ensure innovative care delivery systems have the necessary policies to protect the rights and interests of both HUSKY recipients and taxpayers. The Council is very proud of the success Connecticut Medicaid has achieved in improving access to high quality care while controlling costs in the program.

The Council believes that Connecticut Medicaid should continue to examine health outcomes, care experience and costs under upside-only risk arrangements. Members have shared strong opposition toward shared risk models and the potentially negative impact on HUSKY members and the state as was seen under managed care in the 1990s. The Council believes that there should be no time frame for a commitment to downside risk until stringent prerequisites of model design and consumer protections have been thoroughly reviewed by DSS, MAPOC and various other stakeholders.

Bailit Health has indicated that their proposed cost cap is not intended to cover Medicaid and the Council strongly agrees. DSS should continue to build on alternative payment models that have already demonstrated success and not be required to set a specific target for value-based payments.

Finally, the Council would like to express its concern with the proposal to merge all healthcare-related state agencies into a single entity. While it is important to continue looking for gaps, overlaps and cost savings in the agencies' responsibilities, the task of combining these agencies would be problematic and overly complex. The merger would have the potential for significant negative implications for the distinct populations each agency serves.

Thank you for your consideration of the Medical Assistance Program Oversight Council's feedback on Bailit Health's proposals and the Cabinet's eventual recommendations to the General Assembly. We understand this is a very difficult task and look forward to working with you to protect the health of Connecticut's most vulnerable populations, and to ensure that Connecticut's Medicaid program continues to be innovative and cost effective, while still preserving and increasing the quality of care and access of services.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Council's Administrative Assistant, Rich Eighme, at (860) 240-0321. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Senator Terry Gerrata
Chair



Representative Cathy Abercrombie
Chair