



The Independent Voice for Kentucky's Children

KENTUCKY  
YOUTH  
ADVOCATES

April 20, 2011

Don Speer  
Executive Director, Office of Procurement Services  
Finance and Administration Cabinet  
702 Capitol Ave. Room 096  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Subject: Vendor's Written Questions, Medicaid Managed Care RFP

Dear Mr. Speer:

As the Commonwealth takes steps towards expanding Medicaid managed care in Kentucky and begins to review proposals, it is crucial that we not only look to increase efficiencies within state government, we must also look to improve health outcomes for all. Managed care could naturally translate into improved access to needed care, but if plan or provider participation is inadequate, eligibility for Medicaid unstable, or the unique needs of the Medicaid population are overlooked, children could be in serious danger.

Last week, Kentucky Youth Advocates sent a survey to our network members, including local health departments, school-based health providers, and advocates, about their concerns and questions around Medicaid managed care expansion in Kentucky. We have since received over 70 responses from across the state.

Here are the most prominent questions that emerged:

- How will the move to Medicaid managed care affect local health departments in terms of jobs and services provided to the community?
- How will health services provided by schools be affected? It is widely acknowledged the important services school health centers provided in the Passport region have been reduced because of the managed care agreements. Providers, families, and advocates are concerned this will happen again.
- How will managed care organizations be evaluated and held accountable for their effectiveness?
- How will the managed care expansion be implemented? Will it be implemented in a way that minimizes red tape and does not interrupt services currently provided? Will supports be in place to help families find providers and learn the new system? How will you ensure an adequate number of providers are available to low-income patients?
- Will you ensure that every child will be assigned to a provider within their community?

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FOR AMERICA'S CHILDREN

## Kentucky Youth Advocates Questions

- Will there be changes in Medicaid/ KCHIP enrollment or additional co-pays?

Additional questions include:

- How will healthcare access for children be improved?
- What is the status of the newly formed Children's Health Technical Advisory Committee and what will be the relationship between this body and managed care organizations?
- How will you ensure that aggregate data about health outcomes, services, and access be made transparent? Will aggregate data be collected and reported on members' race, ethnicity, and age? Will aggregate data be available about certain conditions and treatments?
- How will health disparities based on race, place, or income be assessed and addressed?

Thank you for taking the time to address advocates' questions and concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lacey McNary". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lacey McNary  
Deputy Director