



Children & Families Action Network

One voice for children and families in Southwest Louisiana

October 13, 2010

Bruce Greenstein
Secretary, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals
P.O. Box 629
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-0629

Dear Secretary Greenstein:

CFAN, a program of Family & Youth, is writing in support of the Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals' efforts to reform the Medicaid and CHIP delivery system through the implementation of Coordinated Care Networks (CCNs).

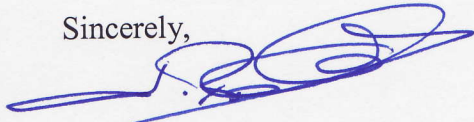
Our organization has a long history of working with health care issues in Louisiana. CFAN members have always identified access to care as a major issue for the children and families we serve, and have identified and mapped entry points to the health care system for those most in need. Through our partnerships with DHH, we have actively promoted LaCHIP education, awareness, and enrollment throughout Southwest Louisiana. That said, there is still more that can be done to improve access to healthcare, and we feel that the Department's plan to bring a more coordinated system of care to the state is critical in ensuring adequate access to health care and improved health and quality of life for our most vulnerable residents.

Our current health care system is failing those that need it most, yet it continues to grow at a rate that is unsustainable. Despite investing nearly \$7 billion in taxpayer funds annually toward medical care, our state's health outcomes continue to be among the worst in the nation. The statistics are disturbing – highest diabetes death rate, highest breast cancer death rate and highest infant mortality rate **in the nation**. It is imperative that we act now. Louisiana deserves better.

Medicaid recipients and Medicaid providers are trapped in a system that rewards volume over value. CCNs will break that mold, minimizing the fragmentation and unnecessary duplication and overutilization of services and putting the focus on management of chronic conditions, primary and preventive care and the education of enrollees. Additionally, the CCN model allows greater flexibility for the provision of enhanced benefits, incentives for improved quality and tools to encourage healthy choices among enrollees.

CFAN, a program of Family & Youth, recognizes and appreciates how supportive the Louisiana Legislature has been in helping us work toward better health care for our citizens. We believe that Coordinated Care Networks are the next obvious step in managing the health care crisis in Louisiana. We thank you for your continued support and we look forward to providing a supporting role in the education and outreach to our local community as Coordinated Care Networks are implemented.

Sincerely,



Julio R. Galan
Executive Director