

**LSMS Supports Physician, Patient Choice
in Revamp of Louisiana Medicaid Program**

BATON ROUGE – After months of careful consideration and one-on-one deliberations with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH), Louisiana State Medical Society (LSMS) announces its support of the enhanced Coordinated Care Networks (CCNs) plan to reform the state’s Medicaid program, a program that serves our most vulnerable patients. By pledging its support to DHH, the LSMS is withdrawing its membership in the Coalition to Protect Louisiana’s Healthcare.

Previously, the Society withheld support because of several critical flaws in the CCNs design, including a lack of a competitive request for proposal (RFP) process, a rate floor for providers and a defined medical loss ratio. After many hours of discussions and meetings with DHH, the LSMS is confident these issues are being addressed by the Department. However, opportunities still remain to make the CCNs even better, and the LSMS looks forward to working with DHH on these issues.

Furthermore, the LSMS, along with other health care stakeholders through the Coalition to Protect Louisiana’s Healthcare, has developed an additional model for providers to participate in the Medicaid program. LSMS believes this model should be considered as a third option for patients and providers. With the major concerns addressed in the new CCN RFP process and the Coalition’s model scheduled to be presented to DHH, the LSMS believes that the needs of both patients and physicians have been weighed and balanced appropriately.

“As the largest physician organization in the state and the only one to represent all specialties, the LSMS has worked diligently to ensure that patients and physicians have options within the Medicaid program,” said Jeff Williams, executive vice president of the LSMS. “The Coalition’s alternative model affords physicians another pathway to participate as a Medicaid provider. Physicians can now research the plans available and choose the option that best suits their practice.”

The LSMS looks forward to collaborating with DHH and Secretary Greenstein, Louisiana’s lawmakers and the Administration in the coming months to ensure that the process of reforming the state’s Medicaid program progresses smoothly and continues to meet the needs of Louisiana’s citizens.

About Louisiana State Medical Society

Established in 1878, the Louisiana State Medical Society (LSMS) serves as the premier advocate for patients and physicians. The LSMS is the largest voluntary physician organization in the state and represents all specialties. Please visit the LSMS online at www.LSMS.org for more information, or contact Sadie Wilks at sadie@lsms.org or by phone at (225) 763-2309.

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