

State: LOUISIANA

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shop” for documents and information regarding MCOs and includes an online form that interested parties can submit electronically to provide suggestions or ask questions.

A MCO Resource Guide for Providers was developed and posted on the website to inform providers of the MCO program and included a program overview, timelines for implementation, how the LDH (formerly DHH) addressed provider concerns, MCO provider recruitment process, information to know about interacting with MCOs, marketing guidelines, etc.

Meetings and presentations were made to legislative committees, advocates such as Covering Kids and Families Coalition, Louisiana Consumer Healthcare Coalition, Louisiana Maternal and Child Health Coalition, Interagency Council on Homelessness, and Office of Developmental Disabilities; associations such as the Louisiana Primary Care Association, Hospital Association, Louisiana Medical Society; health care providers such as physician groups, hospitals, transportation providers and health care plans. Nine public forums were conducted in each of the nine major geographic regions of the state.

An emergency rule creating the managed care model was published in the eight major daily newspapers in Louisiana in September 2010, but was withdrawn to obtain greater public input. After obtaining additional input from stakeholders, the Notice of Intent (NOI) was published on February 20, 2011 in the *Louisiana Register*. LDH solicited written comments and received 24 written comments which were each responded to individually. The public hearing on the Notice of Intent was held on March 30, 2011 with approximately 67 attendees. Feedback received during the administrative rulemaking process was incorporated into both the Request for Proposals issued April 11, 2011 and the Final Rule that was published in the *Louisiana Register* on June 20, 2011. Public input continued during and after the implementation of the program, through website recommendations, public meetings, provider meetings, and LDH Advisory Council meetings, etc. ~~The State continues to utilize the administrative rulemaking process, as mandated by State law (R.S. 49:950 et seq), to ensure adequate public notice is given, and public comments are solicited for each major change implemented in its managed care program.~~

The final rule and the proposed State Plan amendment were shared with the four federally recognized Tribes in Louisiana (Coushatta, Chitimacha, Biloxi-Tunica, and Jena Band of Choctaws), prior to the submittal of the State Plan Amendment pages to CMS. The Department provided a notification letter to the tribal contacts for each of the four tribes and gave them time to comment on the proposed amendment. The Department continues to utilize every opportunity to engage the tribes, post-implementation, through its CMS-approved tribal notification and comment process.

Outreach and education for Medicaid enrollees who would be enrolled, began in early October 2011 and robust efforts continue to ensure that consumers are abreast of program changes and to provide information on the benefits.

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**State statute requires a 30-day public comment period for MCO contract amendments and 45-day public comment period for policy or procedure changes unless LDH finds that imminent peril to the public health, safety, or welfare requires immediate approval.**

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