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IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH & WELFARE**

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April 13, 2020

*Sent Via Email: [executivedirector@iacp-idaho.com](mailto:executivedirector@iacp-idaho.com)*

Lydia Dawson  
Executive Director  
Idaho Association of Community Providers

Dear Lydia;

Thank you for your letter of April 9, 2020, regarding the workforce, funding, and access challenges facing the Medicaid program and the Idaho Association of Community Providers. I appreciate the very difficult situation the providers you represent are facing during these challenging times. I would like to express my appreciation and admiration for the work you do and your collaboration with the Division of Medicaid to address these challenging concerns.

While we have submitted and received approval for our 1135 waiver request, the opportunity for addressing funding concerns under that authority is very limited. As you have discussed with Medicaid staff over the past weeks, because of the way Idaho's program is structured, the Appendix K for 1915c waivers is at best a partial solution.

The primary way we will be addressing the concerns you shared will be through targeted emergency rate increases for providers. We understand the volume of paid claims has been greatly reduced at a time when challenges have greatly increased, but that some services continue to be provided. The Division of Medicaid has already moved to temporarily adjust policies to allow IACP providers to continue to meet the needs of participants during the current emergency. We look forward to continuing that work with you and other provider representatives to try to meet the needs of the population we all serve.

We will be providing information this week on increases to rates to address that situation. Those rate increases will address both services through 1915c waivers and 1915i benefits. Medicaid staff will implement those increases retroactively to the Presidential emergency declaration on March 13. We anticipate federal approval for those changes to be rapid and straightforward. We will be submitting a disaster response state plan amendment and Appendix K application to support those rate increases.

Lydia Dawson

April 13, 2020

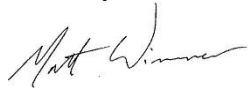
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We currently do not plan on submitting an 1115 application or an Appendix K application for retainer payments. Because the 1115 pathway is unclear, and the Appendix K retainer payment solution is partial, we feel that rate increases are a better solution. Because 1135 waiver authority does not address payment, we do not plan on pursuing that avenue to address funding concerns. We will gladly work with IACP or other provider organizations to obtain additional administrative or policy flexibility through 1135 authority if that would be helpful.

Our staff in the Division of Medicaid are working with Optum leadership to implement temporary waivers of administrative requirements such as prior authorization to facilitate service delivery during the emergency. Staff are also exploring targeted rate increases with Optum as well.

Thank you for your commitment to our participants and your work with the Division of Medicaid during this difficult time. We are committed to implementing the solutions I describe here as quickly as possible to maintain services for participants during the emergency and access to services in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Wimmer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

MATT WIMMER

Administrator, Division of Medicaid