



SEP - 5 2002

Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

August 27, 2002

Andrea Jepsen
1043 Barrett Street
St. Paul, MN 55103

Dear Ms. Jepsen:

Thank you for your letters to Maria Gómez and me. The intent of this letter is to further respond to some of your specific questions/concerns and to update you about activities that have occurred since our meeting.

- It is our opinion that specialized diets are *not* eligible currently for reimbursement under CDCS because of the specific exclusion of specialized diets elsewhere in the waiver plan. CDCS language prohibits the use of CDCS funds for services/goods that are specifically not allowed elsewhere in the federal plan. Having said this, we are seeking a change to this in our proposed waiver amendment for CDCS.
- Your points about lack of flexibility in some counties is something that we address in the proposed waiver amendment. In the meantime, county agencies are expected to follow the standards adopted through their memoranda of understanding with DHS.
- As stated at our meeting, we intend to submit the proposed waiver amendment by the end of August. Policy and budget decisions have been made at this point. We have shared these with Legal Aid and ARC. Legal Aid and ARC have followed up with a communique to interested parties. DHS will make copies available of the proposed amendment and a summary description of the amendment after it has completed internal review and has been approved for submission.
- We were not able to address all the potential interests and issues in the current proposed amendment. We shared with Legal Aid and ARC our interest in addressing further issues after we have opportunities to evaluate the use of CDCS under the pending changes.
- We will maintain contact with Legal Aid and ARC about the progress of the proposed amendment after submission to the federal government.

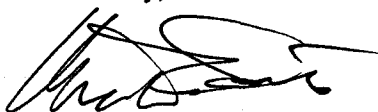
Many of the concerns that you shared in Senator Anderson's office are issues we have attempted to address in the proposed amendment. Our priority over the next few months will be to negotiate a successful outcome with the federal government and to prepare the way for the changes that will

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occur so that implementation can begin as quickly as possible after federal approval. This will include computer system changes, training and information development, calculation of both individual budgets and analysis of the effects upon county allocations, and an introduction of this new option to thousands of stakeholders that have not previously had access to this option. Like you, we are looking forward to improvements that will occur under the new amendment.

If you have questions, please call Shirley Patterson, a member of the Department staff, at (651) 582-1805.

Sincerely,



Weston W. Kooistra
Acting Deputy Commissioner

cc: Senator Ellen Anderson
Senator Dennis Frederickson
Senator Becky Lourey
Senator Jane Ranum
Representative Neva Walker
David Giel
Anne Henry, Legal Aid
Bud Rosenfield, Legal Aid
Cindy Johnson, ARC Minnesota
Colleen Wieck, Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities ✓