

For Immediate Release
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New Mexico HSD Announces Managed Care Organizations for Centennial Care 2.0

SANTA FE, N.M. – Three organizations were selected as New Mexico’s Centennial Care 2.0 Managed Care Organizations (MCO) to administer the Medicaid managed care program, Human Services Department (HSD) Secretary Brent Earnest announced today.

Blue Cross/Blue Shield of New Mexico, Presbyterian Health Plan and Western Sky Community Care (Centene Corp.) will begin operations for Centennial Care 2.0 on January 1, 2019.

The current Centennial Care MCOs will continue to provide coverage until Dec. 31, 2018, when their initial five-year agreement with the state will end. HSD is announcing the successful awards now to have sufficient time for a thorough readiness review period prior to the January 1, 2019 start date.

“By reforming Medicaid through Centennial Care, we’ve been able to improve health care for New Mexicans who need it the most – making it more patient-centered and connecting more patients with primary care providers like doctors and nursing professionals,” Secretary Earnest said. “Through the partners we’ve announced today, we’ll be able to continue improving care for New Mexicans by making it even more patient-centered and cost effective.”

HSD conducted a rigorous selection process for its new Medicaid managed care program MCOs. The three organizations were selected through a competitive procurement process that began in September 2017 with the release of a Request for Proposal (RFP).

The RFP required responders to outline their experience and ability to meet the requirements of the program and advance program goals. The responses addressed key administrative and program objectives such as care coordination, benefits, value based purchasing, provider and member services, and financial management. It also required bidders to submit a cost proposal that was evaluated and scored as part of the selection process.

“HSD will continue to focus on improving health outcomes, implement initiatives that advance program goals, and challenge its MCO partners to work cooperatively with the provider community to achieve a health care delivery system that is efficient and value-driven,” said Medicaid Director Nancy Smith-Leslie.

Centennial Care, the state’s Medicaid managed care program, provides long-term care, physical and behavioral health services to approximately 675,000 New Mexicans on Medicaid.

Centennial Care 2.0 builds upon the program's accomplishments and maximizes opportunities for targeted improvements and other modifications in the following key areas: care coordination, benefit and delivery system refinements, payment reform, member engagement and cost sharing responsibilities, and administrative simplification. The improvements and modifications include:

- Refining care coordination to better meet the needs of high-cost, high-need members, especially during transitions in their setting of care;
- Continuing to expand access to long-term supports and services and maintain the progress achieved in rebalancing efforts;
- Improving the integration of behavioral and physical health services, with greater emphasis on other social factors that impact population health, and improving the continuum of care for substance use disorders;
- Expanding payment reform through value-based purchasing (VBP) arrangements to achieve improved quality and better health outcomes;
- Building upon and incorporating policies that seek to enhance beneficiaries' ability to become more active participants in their own health care, including the introduction of modest premiums for adults with higher income; and
- Further simplifying administrative complexities and implementing targeted refinements to eligibility.

Those Medicaid members who are enrolled with Molina or United HealthCare can stay with their MCO through December 2018. During this year's open enrollment period beginning in October, all Medicaid participants will have a chance to select Blue Cross/Blue Shield of New Mexico, Presbyterian Health Plan or Western Sky Community Care as their new MCO.

Medicaid members who wish to remain enrolled with Presbyterian Health Plan or Blue Cross/Blue Shield of New Mexico do not have to select an MCO during open enrollment. They will be automatically re-enrolled with the same MCO. If members with Molina Healthcare or United Healthcare opt not to select a new MCO, they will be automatically assigned to one.

More information on the new MCOs can be found at [here](#).

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