



Steven M. Costantino

Secretary of Health and Human Services
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
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June 23, 2011

Honorable Members of the
2011 Global Waiver Task Force

Dear Members,

Thank you for your service on the Global Waiver Task Force over the last two years. I also appreciate your patience during the past few months while we focused on budget issues and strengthening the partnership between the departments and the EOHHS.

In July, the Global Waiver will enter its second year of implementation. After reviewing Task Force operations since 2009 and the recommendations about its workings many of you have made, I am making several changes to ensure this next year is off to a productive start.

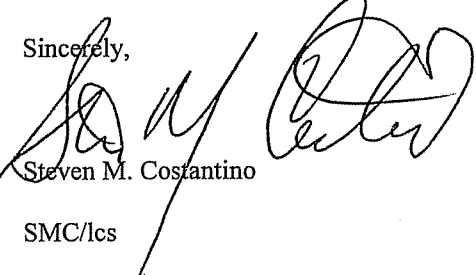
First, I just initiated the process for selecting a community chair for the Task Force. By the end of this week, a notice calling for nominations will be posted on the websites of the EOHHS and departments and sent to interested parties. My goal is to name a community chair before the July Task Force meeting.

Second, I am asking that the remaining Task Force workgroups complete all outstanding work by July 15, 2011. I am impressed by the scope and quality of your efforts and look forward to your final work product. The hope when the Task Force was established is that it would serve as the primary forum for input on Medicaid issues. Yet, there remain dozens of advisory bodies, workgroups and councils focusing on Medicaid related policies, many of which operate in complete isolation of one another. Additionally, the state now also has a Health Reform Commission with subgroups addressing many important Medicaid topics. Rather than add Task Force workgroups to this mix, I would like to work with you and the new community chair to develop a more effective way for structuring your efforts.

Last, I have asked state staff to continue to provide you with timely updates about the budget and ongoing projects and to request your input on any new Medicaid initiatives we plan to pursue. I look forward to your insights as we begin implementing health care reform while we work toward Global Waiver goals advances.

Thank you all once again. Please do not hesitate to share your thoughts and concerns with the state leadership team – Ann Martino, Associate Director of Policy and Elena Nicolella, Medicaid Director.

Sincerely,


Steven M. Costantino

SMC/lcs