



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Scott Walker, Governor
Kitty Rhoades, Secretary

December 19, 2013

Ms. Melanie Bella, Director
Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Ms. Bella:

Thank you for responding to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) request to approve Wisconsin's Integrated Demonstration (WID) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Your November 22nd letter indicated that major revisions to our program proposal would be required before the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will approve.

As we indicated in our submission, further concessions from our proposed MOU would detract from our objectives of true reform and integration. We believe the Financial Alignment Initiative set forth by CMS to be similar to our Family Care Partnership program and subsequently not a model we would need to pilot under this initiative. As a result of this information and our assessment of the options, we do not see the Financial Alignment Initiative adding significant value to the programs Wisconsin Medicaid administers and therefore we will conclude our participation in the Demonstration to Integrate Care for Dual Eligible Individuals.

We remain appreciative of the collaboration with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Medicare Medicaid Coordination Office (MMCO) in planning Wisconsin's proposal. We believe the Medicare data acquisition and analysis activities have been a source of significant opportunities arising from our planning work with CMS. The updated data use agreements we are working on with MMCO keeps in sync the vision of improved care and quality coordination that prompted our initial decision to participate in this grant. To that end, we are sending the new agreements as discussed with MMCO, seeking expanded use of the Medicare data beyond demonstration planning. We look forward to the prompt approval of these revised agreements.

While this is a shift in our direction with the MMCO, we look forward to continuing the relationship we have developed. We see this decision as a different pathway to achieve our shared vision of improved care and services for people. We are grateful for your continued commitment to this goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kitty Rhoades".

Kitty Rhoades
Secretary