

FACTS about

DSS' Proposed HUSKY/PCCM Waiver Application

**Reject DSS' proposed HUSKY waiver - it sets-up PCCM to fail!
Rejecting this waiver application will NOT jeopardize
CT's current HUSKY program.**

In 2007, the General Assembly passed legislation that required DSS to implement a Primary Care Case Management (PCCM) program for HUSKY families. PCCM is a way of running HUSKY without HMOs. In PCCM, consumers choose a primary care provider such as a clinic or doctor, who is responsible for managing their care.

A work group comprised of DSS staff, advocates and providers convened over several months and produced a PCCM implementation plan which was submitted to the Human Services and Appropriations Committees for approval, as required by statute. This plan received unanimous approval from both committees on September 24, 2008.

However, DSS made the unilateral decision to violate the detailed components of the implementation plan and initiated the PCCM program with burdensome new restrictions. This is making it impossible for PCCM to become a sustainable alternative for HUSKY providers and clients. Most notably, DSS:

- Restricted the program to only the small communities of Waterbury and Willimantic, despite interest from providers statewide.
- Restricted client eligibility to current patients of participating providers.
- Failed to do outreach or market the PCCM program to HUSKY families.
- Improperly imposed FOIA obligations on individual primary care providers.
- Limited the timeframe for providers to enroll.

Because of the restrictive provisions above, the current PCCM program is unable to meet the 1000 person minimum requirement imposed by statute.

DSS' Medicaid waiver application to CMS is now before these same committees. The waiver application extends the managed care HUSKY program beyond July 1st but also codifies DSS' unilateral decisions that severely limit PCCM. It contains no specific commitment or timeline to expand PCCM statewide. It is imperative that PCCM be implemented statewide. DSS will have ample time to redo the waiver before June 30.

30 other states successfully use PCCM to run their Medicaid managed care programs. The CT Health Policy Project estimates that PCCM could save the state \$113 million annually. Despite continuing access to care issues for clients, the HUSKY HMOs received a 24% rate increase last year.

PCCM is a competitive alternative to the HMOs as well as an accountable and transparent system for administering care.