

RhodeIsland1115Waiver - Fwd: Re: UPDATED 1115 Waiver Information

From: RhodeIsland1115Waiver
To: Thomas, Melinda
Subject: Fwd: Re: UPDATED 1115 Waiver Information

>>> Annette <access-ability@verizon.net> 2/2/2013 5:17 PM >>>

Dear Ms. Colella,

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend any of the scheduled meetings, but I do have some comments that I hope you take under advisement.

I am seriously concerned about requiring people who are dually eligible to enroll in Rhody Health Partners. This may be a viable option for some but it is not for everyone. For me personally, it will put my health at risk.

The first reason is the problem that this state has with primary care physicians. We have a problem keeping them. This makes it difficult to establish any real relationship with a primary care doc. Without that relationship, which includes trust between both the doctor and the patient, every primary care doc is a stranger. Since it takes a couple of years to establish a good relationship, this puts a patient in a difficult situation. If the doctor the patient transfers to is not a good match, the process has to begin again.

I went through this, going through several doctors before finding a primary care physician that is really good. However, she left the practice she was in (for all the reasons we are not able to keep primary care docs) and the practice she is in in nearby Massachusetts does not take Rhody Health Partners. This left me essentially without a physician until I went on Medicare. Now that I have reestablished with this doctor, I am concerned about being forced to change again. Groups provide coverage but not real continuity of care.

The second reason, also related to the primary care doctor problem, is that, when a person is sick, he or she can choose to call this physician who is

essentially a stranger, wait for a call back and possibly being scheduled for an appointment or go to the emergency room where he or she is guaranteed to be seen, even if by a stranger. This is not cost effective, but given the choice of two strangers, one will opt for the guarantee every time. The state needs to fix its problem with keeping primary care physicians before making other decisions.

The third reason is that the companies that Rhody Health Partners contract with, like Vanguard, do not provide good service. They are chosen based on price only, leaving the consumer to deal with long delays and other problems. Not everyone is equipped to advocate for themselves to get what they need.

As I said, it would put my personal health at risk. At this time, even though I have a complex set of problems, I have a set of protocols and contingency plans with my current physician that work. These work so well that I have not had an inpatient stay in over eight years and that one was because of a trauma.

So, for people who do not have that level of care and need coordination, this is a good plan. It just should not be forced on someone who will lose the care and coordination that is essential to making life happen for people with disabilities.

Thank you for considering this.

Annette Bourbonniere
Accessibility and Inclusion Consulting

Jan 30, 2013 04:12:38 PM, integratedcare@ohhs.ri.gov wrote:

Please find attached **UPDATED** information regarding the Rhode Island Section 1115 Research and Demonstration Waiver Extension Request.

Thank you.