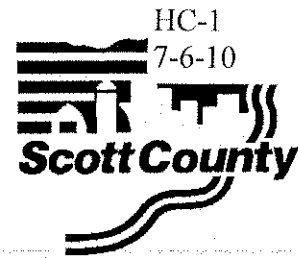


**Community Services Department**

600 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St.  
Davenport, Iowa 52801



**(563) 326-8723 Fax (563) 326-8730**

---

June 28, 2010

TO: Dee F. Bruemmer

FROM: Lori A. Elam

RE: ID (MR) Waiver Slots

I wanted to keep everyone updated on the ID (MR) Waiver slot issue. The issue is now called the "Equal Access Plan".

The State of Iowa's Intellectual Disability Waiver was renewed for five years effective 7/1/09 with the understanding that there must be a corrective action plan developed to address equal access.

In August of 2009, a workgroup was formed to develop the plan for the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS). Although Iowa had a "waiver" of state-wide access since 1996, CMS is stating that Iowa must have a plan to modify how eligibility slots are allocated and managed on a statewide basis by July 1, 2010. The plan requires the state to address equal access to funding slots for persons applying for the ID (MR) waiver.

The State Medicaid Director, Jennifer Vermeer, sent CMS a rough draft on how Iowa was going to manage equal access. She also sent out a letter to CPC's discussing the proposed plan. I have attached the letter. The workgroup will start meeting on a regular basis to identify fiscal impacts, projected growth, develop the assessment tool/criteria, process for issuing slots and managing the waiting list. If CMS does not reject the rough draft, the state will begin managing the slots effective 1/1/11.

In the new proposed plan, every person on the waiting list will have a risk assessment done and will be given a score. The waiting list will be prioritized by score. The State Medicaid office will open up a number of funding slots each month. Scott County will be financially responsible for those who have legal settlement in Scott County. Budgeting for the number of slots that open up each month/year will be a challenge. The State Medicaid office predicts a 2-3% growth in waiver slots each year (approximately 220).

I will keep everyone updated on the process and rules as they are developed as I will continue to serve on this workgroup.



# STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR  
PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
CHARLES J. KROGMEIER, DIRECTOR

To: Sharon Taggart, CMS Iowa State Representative  
From: Jennifer Vermeer, State Medicaid Director  
RE: Intellectual Disability Waiver – Plan for Equal Access

The Intellectual Disability Waiver was renewed for five years effective July 1, 2009. Iowa has been approved to manage the funding slots on a waiver of state wideness since 1996. The state has managed slots and waiting lists for children and state funded adults while the counties managed county funded adults based on Iowa's county of legal settlement formula. The ID waiver renewal was approved with a corrective action that required the state to develop a statewide equal access process by July 1, 2010. The corrective action required that the State of Iowa address equal access to funding slots for persons applying for the ID waiver.

A committee of shareholders has been meeting regularly since August of 2009 to develop strategies and make recommendations on the best approach to implementing the CMS requirements. There is no easy solution to address the implementation of equal access to funding slots across the state of Iowa. Having both the state and counties involved in funding services to adults on the ID waiver, any change in the current access to ID waiver funding slots may have a negative impact on funding available to individual members. Below is the proposed plan to come into compliance with equal access.

## Plan for Equal Access

1. The waiting list will be managed by the state.
2. The criteria to access a funding slot will change. The proposed waiting list process will be based on a prioritized need of the member. All members on the waiting lists or who apply after July 1, 2010, will have a risk assessment completed by a targeted case manager using a case management assessment tool. Review of the assessment and individual member scoring will be completed by the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise.
3. Access to a funding slot will be based on a priority of need. The priorities include:
  - a. Members in out of state placements.
  - b. Members in a nursing facility or hospital placement.
  - c. Children and adult members at the highest risk for facility placement based on the risk assessment score.