



September 19, 2014

Dear MRT Behavioral Health Work Group Member:

On behalf of the Office of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) Commissioner Arlene Gonzalez-Sanchez, Office of Mental Health (OMH) Commissioner Ann Sullivan, and myself, I would like to provide you with the following update on the timeline for the transition of Behavioral Health (BH) services into managed care:

OASAS, OMH, and the Department of Health, are updating the target dates for implementing the transition of BH services.

The revised implementation dates are as follows:

- April 1, 2015: BH Adults NYC (Health and Recovery Plans and Qualified Managed Care Plans)
- October 1, 2015: BH Adults Rest of State (Health and Recovery Plans and Qualified Managed Care Plans)

A strong partnership between government, managed care plans, providers, and stakeholders is an integral component of the Medicaid Redesign Team's vision and guiding principles for behavioral health managed care transition. NYS remains committed to supporting statewide efforts to transform this system of care. Accordingly, this delay will allow more time for:

1. Continued careful planning and preparation for behavioral health systems transition;
2. Plans and providers to collaborate and further develop their networks;
3. Health information technology infrastructure development and expansion; and
4. Obtaining needed Federal approval for these new services and design.

Thank you for your continued support for this critical undertaking. We look forward to leading the nation in providing the best possible care to individuals with behavioral health conditions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Helgerson".

Jason A. Helgerson  
NYS Medicaid Director