



April 26, 2016

Ms. Sarah Brooks
Deputy Director
Health Care Delivery Systems
Department of Health Care Services
1500 Capitol Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95814

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL
Sarah.Brooks@dhs.ca.gov

Dear Ms. Brooks:

On behalf of MOMS Orange County, I am writing to offer our strong support for the Department of Health Care Services' (DHCS) proposed changes to the 2016 Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI) program. We have worked closely with CalOptima to successfully launch Cal MediConnect in Orange County. OneCare Connect, CalOptima's Cal MediConnect plan, has been positively received by our dually eligible clients, who are among Orange County's most vulnerable communities. OneCare Connect has helped them obtain access to coordinated care and benefit from additional services, such as guaranteed access to a maternal/child health, wellness and education program.

Since 2008, MOMS Orange County has partnered with CalOptima since 2008 to provide prenatal and postpartum support services for women who are dual eligible, of childbearing age, and are pregnant. With the help of CalOptima and their dedicated providers, MOMS Orange County has improved birth outcomes in this very vulnerable and at-risk population by providing access to prenatal care, health screenings, infant development screenings, health education and referral services through monthly home visits and group classes.

As you know, more than 120,000 dual eligible members in the state receive their Medicare and Medi-Cal services through Cal MediConnect. Not only is Cal MediConnect meeting the expectation for improved, streamlined and enhanced care, but beneficiaries report overall satisfaction with the program. According to a joint UC Berkeley/UC San Francisco survey, beneficiaries that were enrolled in Cal MediConnect report satisfaction with care coordination, lower out-of-pocket costs, improved access to behavioral health, and the extension of long-term services and supports. The proposed program changes will help continue to grow enrollment, enabling the program to become more sustainable and even more responsive to the needs of the dual eligible population. Specifically, we appreciate DHCS' proposed continuation of the passive enrollment process in 2017 for Orange County. This will ensure that our community will have the best opportunity to experience this very important program.

Launching a brand-new program for a vulnerable population is a significant and challenging undertaking. In Orange County, this process has been successful due to CalOptima's inclusive and collaborative approach. In addition, CalOptima has been working with local stakeholders, including MOMS Orange County, to address potential member concerns. As a result of these efforts, OneCare Connect, with more than 18,000 members, is currently the second largest Cal MediConnect plan in the state. We have been pleased to partner with CalOptima in the launch of OneCare Connect and look forward to continuing this engagement in order to ensure the program's improvement and sustained success.

Thank you again for developing proposed changes to enhance Cal MediConnect and we appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback. MOMS Orange County remains committed to making the program a success and ensuring the long-term viability of this very important delivery system transformation.

Sincerely,

Pamela Pimentel, RN
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Kerry Branick, CMS (Kerry.Branick@cms.hhs.gov)