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Medicaid e-News

Medicaid news for members, providers and stakeholders.



Liz Matney Named Iowa Medicaid Director

The Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) announced Elizabeth Matney as the state's new Medicaid director. DHS conducted a nationwide search and extensive interview process for the position. This included an interview committee of key health care system stakeholders. Matney was unanimously selected by the stakeholder interview committee.

"Liz is a demonstrated health care policy expert, dynamic member of my team, and she brings significant experience to the position," said Governor Reynolds. "Liz is known for strong leadership, relationship building and is passionate about supporting Iowans who depend on these important programs. Liz is also committed to equity and is driven to improve outcomes for all Iowans."

"This is an exciting time for our Medicaid program," said Director Garcia. "I'm thrilled about the vision and expertise Liz brings to the program. She knows Iowa. She knows our program. She is the right choice. Liz will be able to hit the ground running on day one."

Liz holds a Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from Drake University and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Philosophy from Texas State University. Liz currently serves as health policy advisor for Governor Reynolds, where she has worked closely with DHS and the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) on a broad range of critical issues. Her previous experience includes serving as Medicaid managed care director, Medicaid quality assurance director and her early experience includes direct care as a Medicaid provider and work at a women's shelter. This range of experience equips Liz with a unique perspective and skill set.

"This is the opportunity of a lifetime and this is my passion," said Matney. "Medicaid is a large and complex program, full of nuance, rules, and regulation. But on the other end of that are people—people who rely on us to be there and meet their needs. I am committed to working with our team and providing the leadership needed to do just that."

Dental Wellness Plan Kids Program Starts July 1, 2021

Effective July 1, 2021, DHS is moving all children who currently get Medicaid dental benefits through DHS to a new program, Dental Wellness Plan Kids (DWP Kids).

DWP Kids is very similar to the IA Health Link program. The IA Health Link program provides medical care to many children through a Managed Care Organization (MCO). DWP Kids provides dental benefits to kids through a dental carrier.



There are two dental carriers for the DWP Kids program. The dental carriers are the same for adults enrolled in the Dental Wellness Plan. They are:

- Delta Dental of Iowa
- MCNA Dental

DHS has assigned all affected children to one of the two dental carriers listed above. These assignments are scheduled to be mailed to affected households during the week of June 7, 2021. Those who wish to change their dental carrier assignment can do so for any reason through September 30, 2021.

More information about how to make a dental carrier choice can be found on the [DHS website](#).

Statewide Maternal Health Survey

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) is undertaking a strategic planning process for statewide maternal health efforts. IDPH seeks your input as to the strengths, challenges and areas of focus you believe are critical regarding the state's maternal health needs. IDPH invites you to take the following survey as a part of IDPH's community engagement process to help inform the state's maternal health strategic plan. All responses are anonymous and will be reported on in aggregate, meaning no responses can be individually identified.

IDPH would like you to approach your answers to this survey as a general resident of the state. For some, your professional work can (and likely will) impact your answers, however IDPH hopes to gain your individual thoughts and ideas as a community member or maternal health professional. Again, your responses will remain anonymous. If you have additional thoughts or questions about the survey, you may share them at mch@idph.iowa.gov.

[Click here to take the survey!](#)

Surveys are due by Friday, June 11, 2021.

Public Notice

The following public notice has recently been posted on the DHS website:

[Public Comment Period for 2021 Medicaid Managed Care Quality Plan](#)

IA Health Link Contacts

MEMBER SERVICES

[Amerigroup Iowa](#)

1-800-600-4441

[Iowa Total Care](#)

1-833-404-1061

PROVIDER SERVICES

[Amerigroup Iowa](#)

1-800-454-3730

[Iowa Total Care](#)

1-833-404-1061

Dental Wellness Plan Contacts

MEMBER SERVICES

[Delta Dental of Iowa](#)

1-888-472-2793

[MCNA Dental](#)

1-855-247-6262

PROVIDER SERVICES

[Delta Dental of Iowa](#)

1-888-472-1205

[MCNA Dental](#)

1-855-856-6262

Iowa Medicaid Contacts

MEMBER SERVICES

[Iowa Medicaid Member Services](#)

1-800-338-8366

PROVIDER SERVICES

[Iowa Medicaid Provider Services](#)

1-800-338-7909

IA Health Link Success Stories

IA Health Link is a managed care program that works to make sure members get the health care they need. Click the image at the right to read IA Health Link success stories.

