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Date: March 21, 2014

To: Local Health Officers
Wisconsin Well Woman Providers
Wisconsin Well Woman Local Coordinators

From: Karen McKeown *KDM*
Administrator, Division of Public Health
Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Re: **Wisconsin Well Woman Program Restructuring Update**

I am pleased to provide you with the following updates to the Wisconsin Well Woman Program (WWWP) restructuring plans.

Highlights

- The Department thanks our partners in the WWWP provider and coordinator community who have reached out to us with concerns and suggestions regarding the proposed restructure of WWWP.
- The Department has modified the original plans and timeline in light of this feedback.
- The Department will continue to work with providers and coordinators to assure that women served by the WWWP know their options to access comprehensive health care coverage beyond breast and cervical cancer screenings.
- The Department remains committed to assuring that the WWWP remains available to provide high quality screening services to the women who need it and who continue to meet eligibility requirement.

Background

In December, 2013, the Department of Health Services proposed a restructure of the Wisconsin Well Woman Program (WWWP) to ensure that it remains viable and available for women who need it, even as many women currently served by the screening program find they can access comprehensive coverage through BadgerCare (Medicaid) or the federal health insurance Marketplace (healthcare.gov).

The Department's original proposal was to replace the current network of 1,000 provider sites and 83 local coordinating agencies with a model in which health systems would provide both screening and coordination services.

Since that time, stakeholders in the provider and coordinator communities have reached out to us with questions, concerns, and suggestions about how the proposed model would work. We have listened carefully, and have modified our original proposal based on those concerns.

Modified Proposal:

- Providers
We will issue an RFA to select providers who will form the new provider network. Eligible providers will include health systems, FQHCs, hospital outpatient clinics, and rural health clinics. Providers will continue to offer the same screening, diagnostic, and case management services they do in the current model.
- Service Coordination
We are working with a group of local health officers and local coordinators to refine a regional service coordination model. Regional coordinators will provide the same services currently offered by local coordinators.
- Timeline
While we believe the above modifications will address most of the concerns, many partners have also expressed concern about the timeline. Therefore, we are planning to extend the timeline for the restructure. In addition to allowing our partners more time to prepare for the transition, this will allow the Department to predict with greater precision how many women will enroll in BadgerCare Plus or a Marketplace health insurance plan and will allow the Department to modify its proposal based on clearer projections for the number of women who may potentially be served through the WWWP.

Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Health Reform in Wisconsin

In order to ensure that the changes outlined above are effective, the Department believes that additional enrollment data and information on BadgerCare Plus and Marketplace should be evaluated and incorporated into the updated proposal. Under the current eligibility levels of the WWWP, many participants who are currently in the program will have access to full health coverage through either BadgerCare or the Marketplace. For those women who are between 0% and 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), Wisconsin's BadgerCare program will provide the full standard benefit, greatly expanding the level of services available to women in this income group. For women between 100% and 250% FPL, private health insurance is available through the federal Marketplace. Effective April 1st, 2014, there will be no coverage gap for women in Wisconsin.

Moreover, the ACA also provides two subsidies to make insurance more affordable: one that provides assistance to make premiums more affordable and a second that assists in lowering out-of-pocket costs. While the ACA allows for premium subsidies for individuals with income between 100% and 400% FPL, the out-of-pocket subsidies are only available to those with incomes between 100% and 250%. It is our hope that through the outreach efforts of the past months as well as ongoing enrollment activities, we will help hundreds and thousands of

Wisconsin women gain lifesaving health insurance through BadgerCare and the federal Marketplace.

Next Steps

During the upcoming months, we will continue to work with partners to educate women on the expanded choices available to them, through BadgerCare and the Marketplace, that allow them to access comprehensive services. We will also use the opportunity to prepare women for the restructure of WWWP. Projected dates include the following:

- December 1, 2014 – An RFA will be issued to select the providers who will form the new provider network.
- April 1, 2015 – the new provider network will be in place.
- April 1, 2015 – the new service coordination model will be in place.
- June 30, 2015 – the current service coordination model will end. (Note: the three month overlap in coordination models will allow for a seamless transition for clients)

Ongoing Commitments

- WWWP will remain available for the women who need it and who continue to meet eligibility requirements.
- The Department will continue to assure that no woman has to travel more than 50 miles for screening services.

As always, should you have any questions or concerns regarding these changes, please feel free to contact me at karen.mckeown@dhs.wisconsin.gov.