



Thomas J. Betlach
Director
801 East Jefferson, MD 4100
Phoenix, Arizona 85034

Douglas A. Ducey, Governor

Timothy Jeffries
Director
1717 West Jefferson
Phoenix, Arizona 85005

STATEMENT BY DIRECTOR BETLACH AND DIRECTOR JEFFRIES

October 29, 2015

We are taking this opportunity to distribute a joint communication to members, families and other stakeholders regarding members with Developmental Disabilities who are served by the Department of Economic Security. We have received questions and have heard concerns from a number of individuals regarding the possibility of DDD merging into the AHCCCS Administration.

We can absolutely guarantee that there is no proposal to merge DDD within the AHCCCS Administration that has been discussed by either agency or the Governor's Office.

AHCCCS and DES DDD are having preliminary discussions around ways to improve accessing care for our members. Currently, members receive their physical health through a health plan, behavioral health through the RBHA and long term services and supports through DDD. They may also receive services through Medicare, Medicare Part D and CRS. System design matters and we have a responsibility to reduce the hassle factor for families associated with engaging different systems of care. We are hearing stories of the barriers created by our current system design from family members who, not surprisingly, have challenges navigating our multiple systems.

Some of these discussions are also taking shape through the ASD Advisory Committee. These discussions are in their infancy. The current contracts with the existing DDD physical health plan subcontractors were set to expire in the next year. In order to more comprehensively and appropriately discuss these issues, the contracts have been extended a year to October 1, 2017.

Hence, there are no decisions or changes that are being proposed at this time. Clearly both agencies are committed to engaging all stakeholders as it relates to any system design changes.

Again, the one certainty is that these discussions have not and will not result in a proposal to merge DDD and AHCCCS. We look forward to an opportunity to engage members, families and stakeholders around thoughts and ideas to help us ensure we are making access to care as easy as possible for our members.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.