The Changing Landscape of Behavioral Health Care Delivery

A Message from Maria Montanaro, General Manager, Magellan Behavioral Care of Iowa

Change is on the horizon in health care delivery all across the nation, including here in Iowa! DHS and the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise have undertaken a number of broad initiatives that will change the landscape of care delivery for behavioral health services. Magellan has been working closely with state officials to support these initiatives, most notably the State Plan Amendment to Medicaid that will provide Integrated Health Home Services to adults and children who live with serious mental illnesses. You can read more about that in this newsletter. We are also working with the state to bring social supportive services and intensive case management into the Iowa Plan.

Habilitative Services (1915i) will transition to the Iowa Plan as of July 1. Magellan will be working closely with our providers to strengthen the case management of the newly developing IHH sites so that they can provide complete and comprehensive case management to their IHH members.

The changes in Medicaid are consistent with the state’s intention to move the provider community toward a more accountable and seamlessly integrated system. One of those involves funding from CMS to develop Accountable Care Organizations to serve Medicaid recipients. Magellan intends to be at the table during this planning process. We want to ensure that we leverage our experience from the Integrated Health Homes as we take another step toward complete care for people experiencing serious mental illness and all Medicaid members served by the Iowa Plan.

In short, we at Magellan pledge to use our expertise in behavioral health to work with legislators, state officials and the provider community to advance our collective aim to help people achieve better health through their interaction with a coordinated delivery system that ultimately lowers the cost of care. Working and learning together, we can realize this goal. We are counting on your support and partnership to make the future health care delivery system a better one for all Iowans.