

May 10, 2010

Dear Governor Pawlenty and Members of the Minnesota House and Senate:

We are writing as a community of GAMC enrollees and the providers who serve them to urge you to take immediate advantage of the opportunity available to Minnesota to shift individuals currently on GAMC onto Medical Assistance.

We recognize the many difficult challenges that were part of revamping the GAMC program, and appreciate the significant time and energy that has been dedicated to this issue. However, it has now become clear that the new GAMC program will not be able to provide adequate, sustainable health care to the population it was designed to serve, and a shift to MA is needed. As you are aware, only four hospitals in Minnesota have opted to participate in the revamped GAMC program, none of which is located in greater Minnesota.

Full implementation of the new GAMC program with this level of hospital participation would result in:

- Inadequate coverage for fully half of the GAMC population who do not fall into one of the “Coordinated Care Delivery Systems.” These individuals — thousands of low-income men and women in greater Minnesota — will have no guarantee of receiving care beyond prescription drug coverage.
- A level of compensation for hospitals that participate in the program that still fails to cover the cost of providing care.
- Extremely limited compensation for hospitals that do not opt to be “Coordinated Care Delivery Systems” and whose total compensation for care for GAMC enrollees will be limited to \$20 million a year.
- Lack of cost-effective outpatient coverage, including medical clinics and mental health crisis centers, which are designed to keep patients out of the emergency room.

Coverage for the GAMC population under Medical Assistance offers a far better alternative. Medical Assistance would provide:

- Stable, comprehensive benefits for the men and women currently covered by GAMC;
- Better reimbursement rates for hospitals and other providers;
- A 50% match from the federal government — money that Minnesota would otherwise “leave on the table;” and
- A more streamlined public health care system that requires fewer separate programs to administer.

Determining the best path forward for GAMC enrollees and their providers has not been an easy task. However, a year after GAMC policy discussions began, the best policy solution for GAMC is now clearly before us. We strongly urge you to act immediately and decisively to shift GAMC enrollees onto Medical Assistance.

Sincerely,

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