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January 28, 2015

Alissa Deboy, Director
Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-26-12
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850

Dear Ms. Deboy:

The State of Rhode Island is currently developing our Statewide Transition Plan for compliance and alignment with the *Final Rule for Settings Requirements for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) CMS-2249-F/CMS-2296-F*. The Executive Office of Health and Human Services, the Departments of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals; Children, Youth and Families; Health; and Human Services, Division of Elderly Affairs are working closely with the Rhode Island Developmental Disabilities Council, the Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities, and other stakeholders to develop the plan.

Through this collaboration, we will conduct an analysis of the alignment between the State's current HCBS delivery system and the final rule. The results of this analysis will fully inform the following areas of our Statewide Transition Plan:

- A detailed description of the State's compliance with home and community based settings. This will include a review of all state policies, regulations and standards. An assessment tool will be used to determine current compliance with the federal requirements for residential, non-residential home, and community based settings.
- A detailed description of remedial actions the State will implement to ensure compliance with home and community based settings requirements. This may include changes to regulations, statutes, service definitions or relocation of individuals to other settings and identification of settings for consideration under the heightened scrutiny provisions, as appropriate. Any remedial actions may be at the provider, state, and/or individual level. Timeframes for progress and milestones will be included in the Plan.
- A detailed description of the Person Centered Planning Process to provide true integration for the individual in their community. Services that will be part of the planning process are personal care; home based health care; case management and care coordination; transportation; habilitation, including day habilitation; respite care; employment services from pre-employment to supported employment.

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- The plan will reflect the perspective of individuals, caregivers, families. It will be developed with input from several advisory, provider and advocacy organizations.
- We will hold two formal public forums to allow for input from the general public.

Rhode Island provides Medicaid-funded home and community-based services under the authority of an 1115 Waiver. We intend to submit our Statewide Transition Plan to CMS on June 30, 2015.

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services' contact for this effort is Tom Martin. If you have any questions or need additional information please contact Tom Martin at Tom.Martin@ohhs.ri.gov or 401-462-2596.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth H. Roberts, Secretary
Executive Office of Health and Human Services

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