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#14-540-4

Kroh, Karen

From: Kroh, Karen
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2016 9:21 AM
To: 'Karen Kroh'
Subject: Public Comment Regulation 14-540 - PAR

2016 NOV 17 AM 10:12

RECEIVED
IRRC

From: Shirley Walker [mailto:Shirley@par.net]
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2016 12:11 PM
To: Thaler, Nancy <nthaler@pa.gov>
Cc: Jack Kane <jack@par.net>; Andrew Ritter, Jr. <ritter@capitalassoc.com>
Subject: Request for extension of comment period

Dear Nancy,

We have completed a preliminary review of the proposed regulations that were published in the Pa Bulletin on November 5, 2016. The regulations (developed over 15 months and the subject of much discussion over several years) modify four chapters of existing ODP regulations and include a new Chapter 6100 that will govern the delivery of and payment for HCBS under the Waiver Programs. In total, the regulations consist of nearly 300 pages of detailed and important text that will control how providers of ID/A services render services and are paid for them. Indeed, IRRC staff have advised us that they consider this to be a very substantial regulatory submission and may be the largest ever from DHS/DPW.

I know that you advocated to permit a longer public response time to the regulations and we much appreciate that advocacy. Having now reviewed the several chapters, however, we are concerned that to develop essential, comprehensive and informed responses to ODP's proposals requires more than the allotted 45 days. We intend, with the support and input of provider representatives and consumer family representatives, to develop a response to each Chapter that identifies every regulation, our position, and, where appropriate, suggested text. That is, we do not merely intend to accept/reject specific regulations with general commentary but rather to propose suggestions to ODP that hopefully can result in mutual agreement regarding the large majority of the proposed rulemaking.

Given the importance of the proposed rulemaking – being the most comprehensive sets of regulations ever developed by ODP that will dictate the day-to-day delivery of services and supports to over 50,000 consumers that will govern the expenditures of billions of dollars annually – and given the need to devote substantial time and resources to preparing thoughtful commentary to the detailed proposals (during the holiday season no less), we ask that the public comment period be extended by 45 days. We do not believe this will materially affect the regulatory development timeline as DHS will be unable to take the next tangible step in the regulatory development process until legislative committees are designated with their regulatory oversight responsibilities in the new legislative session (likely early to mid – February).

We appreciate your attention to and consideration of our request.

Shirley

Shirley Walker President and CEO

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