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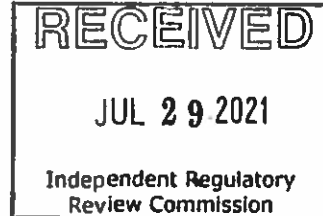
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July 21, 2021

Department of Human Services
Office of Medical Assistance Programs
c/o Regulations Coordinator
Room 515, Health and Welfare Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120



To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to express strong support for the proposed rulemaking published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on Saturday, June 26, 2021, Regulation No. 14-549. I am writing on behalf of the Pennsylvania Association of Area Agencies on Aging (P4A). For more than 40 years, Pennsylvania's Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) have served the Commonwealth's 67 counties by providing information about resources and service providers, assessing needs for service, making referrals to case managers, and linking to services. These local agencies provide vital services, programs, and information to millions of older Pennsylvanians and their caregivers, including legal services, home delivered meals, health promotion, and disease prevention, transportation, public benefits counseling, senior centers, and in-home services.

The Department is correct when stating that new developments have taken place in the health care industry, emphasizing the need for integrated health care. The need for more integrated care can be clearly seen in the mental health and physical health industries. Mental health and physical health are closely tied, as research has indicated. P4A recognizes the value of integrated care for the older adults we serve. The rescission of this outdated regulation will open doors to coordination, collaboration, and integration that will lead to better outcomes for the citizens of the Commonwealth. We strongly support these changes being adopted.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca May Cole".

Rebecca May Cole
Executive Director