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Sent via e-mail to: sakozak@pa.gov

July 16, 2021

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

Dear Ms. Kozak:

LeadingAge PA is a trade association representing more than 380 not-for-profit providers of senior housing, health care and community services across the commonwealth. Our members employ more than 50,000 staff that provide services to 75,000 residents and clients. Our members strive to provide coordinated systems of care and services that are responsive to the needs and preferences of the older adults who use them by offering consumers convenience, high quality and choice of a variety of services and settings.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on the [Department's proposed](#) Regulation No. 14-549 on provider interrelationships. The proposal would amend §1101.51 by rescinding subsection (c)(3), which prohibits providers from leasing or renting space, shelves or equipment within a provider's office to another provider or from allowing the paid or unpaid staff of a provider to be placed in another provider's office. LeadingAge PA agrees with the Department that developments in the health care industry over the last several years have emphasized the need for integrated health care and supports the Department's proposal to rescind subsection (c)(3) to allow Medical Assistance (MA) beneficiaries to receive services in a more integrated manner.

By expanding MA provider qualifications to include co-locating providers, we believe that the Department will support more coordinated and integrated care within the MA Program, providing more choices to MA beneficiaries, while continuing to uphold the requirements that beneficiaries continue to have freedom of choice. Further, the regulation will continue to require providers to comply with HIPAA, Federal and State anti-kickback and self-referral laws, and the requirement to provide MA beneficiaries with freedom of choice.

Thank you for your proposal to allow more integration of services and expand the number of providers available for MA beneficiaries. LeadingAge PA is always pleased to be a resource to you and your colleagues on topics related to the provision of long-term care. If you would like to discuss this, or other issues, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beth Greenberg".

Beth Greenberg
Sr. Director, Regulatory Affairs
LeadingAge PA
bgreenberg@leadingagepa.org