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Statewide Parent Advocacy Network, Inc.
Empowered Families: Educated, Engaged, Effective!

Family Voices-NJ Comments on Proposed New Rule: N.J.A.C. 1:10B-18.4 Special Hearing Rules: Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services Applicant/Recipient Hearings

11/9/10

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the N.J.A.C proposed rule for special hearings under the Division of Medical Assistance. Family Voices is a national network that advocates on behalf of children with special healthcare needs and works to “keep families at the center of children’s healthcare”. The NJ State Affiliate for Family Voices is housed at the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN), NJ’s federally designated Parent Training and Information Center and Family-to-Family Health Information Center.

While SPAN provides information, training, technical assistance, parent to parent support, advocacy, and leadership development for all NJ families of children ages birth to 21, our priority is on children at greatest risk due to disability, special health care or emotional needs, poverty, discrimination based on race, culture, language, immigrant status, or economic status, or involvement in the child welfare or juvenile justice systems. Thus, we are particularly concerned with ensuring that the needs of children with special healthcare needs, and their families, are adequately addressed.

Summary

We strongly support this proposed rule prohibiting “extensions of the time limits for issuing an initial decision, filing exceptions or issuing a final decision in cases from the Division of Medical Assistance.” We agree that this will “ensure decisions are issued within the 90-day time frame” as required by law and regulation, and believe that this will be of great benefit to recipients.

Social Impact

Again, we agree that this will ensure “decisions...are issued within the time frame established by Federal regulation.”

Economic Impact

We agree that this will allow for both receipt of benefits more quickly as well as termination of those who are not qualified.

Federal Standards Statement

We agree that “the requirements...are the same as those imposed by Federal law.”

Jobs Impact

We agree that this will neither generate jobs nor cause job loss.

Agriculture Industry Impact

We also agree that this rule will not have impact in the area of agriculture.

Regulatory Flexibility Statement

We further agree that this “does not impose any reporting, recordkeeping or compliance requirements on small businesses.”

Smart Growth Impact

We concur that this will not impact the implementation of the State Development and Redevelopment Plan.

Housing Affordability Impact

We agree that this will have no impact on housing affordability.

Smart Growth Development Impact

We also agree that it will not impact “the number of housing units or the availability of affordable housing.”

We strongly support that “time limits for filing an initial decision, filing exceptions, or issuing a final decision shall not be extended.” We believe this will be beneficial to consumers and enhance cost effectiveness for the state by expediting the process.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed rule on special hearings under the Division of Medical Assistance.

Sincerely,

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Our Mission: To empower families and inform and involve professionals and other individuals interested in the healthy development and educational rights of children, to enable all children to become fully participating and contributing members of our communities and society.