

## **GLOBAL COMMITMENT TO HEALTH WAIVER RENEWAL**

### **Fact Sheet**

- On Monday, October 24, 2016, the Agency of Human Services received approval from the federal government to continue Vermont's Global Commitment to Health Medicaid Waiver.
  - The approval is for a five-year term that will cover January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2021.
- Since 2005, Vermont has used the Global Commitment Waiver to operate its Medicaid program under an innovative model developed to provide essential services for Vermont's most vulnerable populations, including people with disabilities, seniors, and those with low incomes, and ensuring affordable health care coverage for children and other Vermonters.
  - These efforts have positioned Vermont as a national leader in state-based health care reform.
- The new five-year approval preserves several key benefits to Medicaid participants:
  - Medicaid coverage of essential services for Vermont's most vulnerable populations, including people with disabilities, seniors, and those with low incomes.
  - Affordable health care coverage for children through Dr. Dynasaur.
  - Premium assistance for Vermonters through Vermont Health Connect.
  - Payment and delivery system reform by ensuring Medicaid participation and alignment with the All-Payer Model.
- CMS has requested certain changes to better align Section 1115 waivers, like Vermont's Global Commitment Waiver, across the country. The new approval also includes changes that are part of new Medicaid Managed Care rules. For Vermont, these changes will primarily involve:
  - Additional reporting and federal oversight of certain elements of Vermont's Global Commitment waiver.
  - Restructures funding sources for certain investments.
- CMS also encouraged Vermont to pursue a Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Demonstration Waiver as an amendment to the Global Commitment Waiver.
  - CMS is committed to the important issue of substance use because an estimated 12 percent of adult Medicaid beneficiaries ages 18-64 dealing deal with substance use disorder and an additional 15 percent of uninsured individuals who could be newly eligible for Medicaid coverage also dealing with SUD.
  - CMS is interested in working with the state to provide necessary support.
  - CMS substance use efforts closely align with Vermont's own goals for the SUD continuum of care.
  - AHS staff have already begun the process of formally aligning Vermont within current federal constructs for this work.