TO: Care Coordinators and Service Providers
FROM: Carol Tegas, Executive Director
RE: DSRIP Opt Out letter
DATE: April 11, 2016

Medicaid beneficiaries are currently receiving DSRIP Opt Out letters from New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH). The letter is asking individuals if they do not wish to participate in the electronic information sharing associated with DSRIP. Many direct care providers are receiving inquiries from patients about the meaning of this letter and the purpose of DSRIP. Below is some additional information to assist with these discussions.

What is DSRIP? What is FLPPS?
New York State is working to reform the Medicaid healthcare system to make it easier for people to access and coordinate the care they need to stay healthy. This reform process is called DSRIP (Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment program). Over 600 healthcare and community-based organizations in the Finger Lakes region are working together to provide better healthcare access and care coordination for Medicaid beneficiaries. These organizations are part of the Finger Lakes Performing Provider System (Learn more about FLPPS at www.flpps.org).

Easier Access, Coordinated Care
Doctors and care providers in our region understand the current Medicaid delivery system is confusing and difficult to use. One of the things we are trying to do is make it easier to access a primary care office, so people do not have to go to the emergency room to receive care. There are a lot of reasons why going to the emergency room currently may be the easiest option, because few doctors take Medicaid, and the doctors that do take Medicaid have limited appointments available; we are working on those pieces too. NYS DOH has given us an opportunity through DSRIP to change the healthcare delivery system to improve access and connect doctors and community-based resources. The extent of integration with community-based resources is still being decided, however our providers understand that things like reliable transportation and stable housing are essential to overall health.

Sharing Patient Information
Right now many doctors’ offices are using electronic health records (EHR). EHRs are more efficient than paper files however many of these doctors’ offices use different systems that do not connect to each other. This is why patients experience repeated questions regarding their medical history and current health status at a new doctor’s office, urgent care center, or emergency room. Part of the DSRIP program is to connect all of these electronic systems to allow doctors to have a more complete picture of each patient and understand the level of care required. Each individual’s personal health information is confidential and cannot be shared beyond the FLPPS network.
What Opt Out means

The Opt Out letter is asking individuals if they do not wish to participate in the electronic information sharing associated with DSRIP. The first set of letters was mailed in October 2015, a second set of letters was mailed in February 2016. Medicaid beneficiaries are automatically a part of DSRIP unless they choose to “Opt Out” by mailing in a form or calling the Medicaid Call Center. If individuals Opt Out it means we cannot share any of their medical or healthcare information between care providers. The individual’s choice to participate or Opt Out will not impact their Medicaid benefits. If they choose to Opt Out, there is currently no process to Opt-Back-In at a later date.

Seeking Member Perspective

FLPPS is seeking input from individuals enrolled in Medicaid to understand their challenges with the current system and discuss solutions. FLPPS holds regular community forums to talk about these healthcare issues and has standing workgroups looking for members who receive Medicaid benefits. If you know of someone who is interested in sharing their Medicaid experience and perspective, please contact the FLPPS office at 585.239.9300 or info@flpps.org.