TO: Medicaid Beneficiaries  
FROM: Carol Tegas, Executive Director  
RE: DSRIP Opt Out letter  
DATE: April 11, 2016

If you are currently receiving Medicaid benefits, you were recently mailed a letter from New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) about the DSRIP program. Below is more information about that letter.

What is DSRIP? What is FLPPS?  
New York State is working to change the Medicaid healthcare system to make it easier for patients to access and coordinate the care they need to stay healthy. This process is called DSRIP (Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment program). Over 600 healthcare and community organizations in the Finger Lakes region are working together to provide better access and care coordination for people who receive Medicaid. These organizations are part of the Finger Lakes Performing Provider System (FLPPS). (Learn more 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 they are trying to do is make it easier to access a doctor’s office, so people don’t have to go to the emergency room to receive care. There are a lot of reasons why going to the emergency room 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. The purpose of the DSRIP program is to improve access to healthcare, and connect doctors and community-based organizations to maintain 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 doctors’ offices use different systems that do not connect to each other. This is why you are asked the same questions about your medical history and current health at a new doctor’s office, urgent care center, or emergency room. Part of our work is to connect all of these electronic systems so each doctors can have a complete picture of your health, history and current medications. Your personal health information will not be shared beyond the FLPPS network of care providers.

What “Opt Out” Means  
The Opt Out letter is asking if you do not wish to participate in the electronic information sharing associated with DSRIP. If you choose to Opt Out that means we cannot share your medical or healthcare information between doctors to coordinate your care. You are automatically enrolled in this program unless you choose to Opt Out by mailing in the form that came with your letter or calling the Medicaid Call Center. Your choice to participate or Opt Out will not impact your Medicaid benefits.
If you choose to Opt Out, there is currently no way to Opt-Back-In at a later date.

**Seeking Your Voice**
FLPPS is interested in hearing from individuals enrolled in Medicaid to understand your challenges with the current system and discuss potential solutions. FLPPS holds regular community forums to talk about these healthcare issues and has workgroups looking for members who are Medicaid patients. If you are interested in sharing your Medicaid experience and perspective, or have additional questions about the Opt Out process, please contact the FLPPS office at 585.239.9300 or info@flpps.org.