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Subject: CMS Contact

I talked to Donna Cohen-Ross, she is a senior policy person at CMS and I got to know her as we implemented our Express Lane Eligibility. She was also previously with CBPP. She is happy to connect us with the right people on visiting programs/policy at CMS and she did note that there is some additional support/flexibility for visiting programs broadly under ACA. She will get back to me in the coming days on who is the CMS policy person over that area and with expertise in the changes under ACA.

She talked about the funding from other parts of HHS that have gone into visitation programs as grants -- see <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/09/20110922b.html> and was interested in how we could drive this as a covered service in the Medicaid program and through a SIB where the state wouldn't have to put up the high dollars up-front and there would be a long-term sustainability (the problem with grants).

She was also very interested in learning about SIB/pay-for-success models and didn't know anything about them. I've directed her to a variety of materials.

We agreed that we should explore the policy around visitation programs and work through that first and then add the complexity (or opportunity) of the SIB aspect once we understand what is (or may be) allowed under current CMS/Medicaid authority and then how we would want the SIB funding to work with the service.

In short -- she will provide us some navigation with the right people at CMS and as we discussed. Ultimately it will be some kind of waiver request and I expect this will have to go to Cindy for approval and if the approach makes sense, I think Donna would be willing to help us get it in front of Cindy when/as appropriate.

I'll pass information on to the group as I get more from Donna and we can go from there. If anyone has any questions let me know.

john

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