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JEFF ANDERSEN, SECRETARY

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State of Kansas Awards Medicaid Contracts to Three Managed Care Companies Aetna welcomed as new KanCare MCO, Sunflower and United continue service

TOPEKA – Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Secretary Jeff Andersen and State Medicaid Director Jon Hamdorf are pleased to announce the selection of three managed care organizations (MCOs) that will serve the Kansas Medicaid program, known as KanCare. The contracts include one new organization and two current KanCare companies.

The companies include:

- Sunflower State Health Plan, Inc.
- United Healthcare, Midwest Inc.
- Aetna Better Health of Kansas, Inc.

The MCOs were selected from a pool of six candidates, which submitted bids during a Request for Proposal (RFP) process that concluded yesterday, June 21, when the winning bidders signed their contracts with the State of Kansas, through the Kansas Department of Administration.

“We appreciate the tremendous feedback we have received every step of the way as the contract language was developed,” Secretary Andersen said. “We took into consideration the concerns we received from KanCare consumers, advocacy groups, legislators and other stakeholders. We strive to provide Kansans with a cost effective and dependable Medicaid program that serves their needs, and the new contracts will further that objective.”

Some of the key improvements in the new contracts include:

- Greater oversight and accountability

Protect and Improve the Health and Environment of all Kansans

- Improved response to consumer needs
 - Enhanced care coordination
 - Supported employment pilot for persons with disabilities and behavioral health needs
 - New value-added benefits
- Adult dental services will continue.*

A multi-step process preceded the 17-member review committee's evaluation of the six RFP bids. Committee members consisted of KDHE and Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) staff members with experience and knowledge working with the Kansas Medicaid system. The evaluations considered cost and technical capabilities to perform the work outlined. A recommendation was then made to Secretary Andersen, who approved and then forwarded the recommendation to the procurement negotiating committee (PNC) and the Department of Administration for review and approval. Based on that process, the PNC then awarded the contracts.

"KanCare has proven an effective and efficient delivery model for Medicaid in Kansas," said Governor Jeff Colyer. "We have achieved cost savings, but more importantly, we've seen greater preventative care access to improve health outcomes for Kansans."

Consumers currently enrolled in Amerigroup will have the opportunity to select a new MCO during the open enrollment period, beginning in October. Amerigroup will continue to serve as a KanCare MCO through the duration of the existing contract, which is set to expire on Dec. 31.

"These new KanCare contracts will provide Medicaid waiver consumers with enhanced, comprehensive care and services," said KDADS Secretary Tim Keck. "We are looking forward to offering them improved care coordination and more work opportunities that will encourage them to grow and thrive while living in their home communities."

For more information about KanCare, visit www.kancare.ks.gov. For evaluation results and the finalized contracts, visit <http://admin.ks.gov/offices/procurement-and-contracts/kancare-award>. Consumers who have questions about this change can call 785-766-9012.

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