

TO: All AAPS Licensed Providers

FROM: David Dickinson  
Director, Addiction and Prevention Services, SRS

DATE: March 16, 2007

RE: Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP) Contract Awarded

This week SRS announced the awarding of the contract for managed care of substance abuse treatment services in the State of Kansas. Secretary Don Jordan provided the public announcement during testimony to the Legislature on Wednesday afternoon, March 14. Simultaneously, I was also able to publicly announce the news to the Kansas Citizens' Committee on Alcohol and other Drug Abuse. I would like to share with you part of the text of the Secretary's testimony:

“SRS is contracting with Value Options (VO), one of the nation's largest behavioral health care companies, serving over 24 million people across the country through publicly funded and commercial contracts with a wide variety of managed behavioral healthcare services. SRS will leverage the extensive experience of VO to successfully serve as the statewide managed care organization for both Medicaid and federal SAPT block grant-funded substance abuse services. VO will subcontract with providers to deliver all substance abuse services, both inpatient facility care and outpatient services.”

Today, AAPS also posted an announcement on the Kansas Register, indicating the implementation of this new managed care program for substance abuse services in Kansas. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) require a Quality Improvement Strategy for this type of program that is available for public comment. This strategy's focus is on monitoring the new program and improving substance abuse treatment services under the guidance of a statewide quality committee of substance abuse treatment stakeholders. Interested persons may contact Kim Brown, AAPS Medicaid Coordinator, at [kbrown@srs.ks.gov](mailto:kbrown@srs.ks.gov) to receive a copy of the entire QIS document for review.

In the next few weeks, AAPS leadership will be meeting with Value Options management personnel to begin working on our implementation plan. A wide variety of tasks must be tackled as we move forward toward the July 1, 2007 implementation date. Many of these tasks will involve our stakeholders and partners throughout the State's provider network. We will be inviting you to participate in this process as we look toward building an inclusive and successful partnership with our provider network and Value Options to deliver the best substance abuse services possible for our citizens who are most in need.

Please remember to mark April 12 on your calendar for the AAPS Statewide Leadership Meeting here in Topeka, and send in your registration to the Kansas Association for Addiction Professionals. Value Options staff will attend and present at this important meeting built around the theme “Partnering for Customer Success”. I believe it will be a great time to get acquainted, ask questions, learn and begin developing positive relationships with our new PIHP vendor.

I personally want to thank each of you for all your support as we have been moving through this process, and welcome and encourage your active participation in this new system of managed care for substance abuse services in Kansas.