

Subject: Urban County News, May 16, 2012: Updated 1115 Waiver Program Draft Protocols Released for Comment

From: Michael Vasquez [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2012 5:21 PM
To: Michael Vasquez
Subject: Urban County News, May 16, 2012: Updated 1115 Waiver Program Draft Protocols Released for Comment

May 16, 2012

To all Urban Counties:

Today the HHSC released the attached draft Program Funding and Mechanics (PFM) Protocol. The draft Protocol is the state's working document for Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) requirements as permitted by the 1115 Waiver.

The draft Protocol outlines:

- the minimum number of projects;
- organization of the Regional Healthcare Partnership (RHP) Plan;
- plan review process;
- required reporting;
- allocation of available pool funds;
- valuation of projects;
- disbursement of funds; and
- plan modifications.

It should be noted that HHSC specifically mentions it as concerns that some of the draft Protocol provisions may not be approved by the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

Also announced are:

- HHSC will host a webinar on the Protocol on **May 23, 2012** (details below).
- HHSC is requesting written feedback on the Protocol by Thursday, **May 31, 2012** (details below).
- HHSC will hold a public hearing in Austin to obtain feedback on the Protocol on **June 7, 2012** (details below).

The full notice from HHSC is copied below:

Program Funding and Mechanics Protocol: Attached to this email is the draft Program Funding and Mechanics Protocol, dated May 16, 2012. This is the State's working document for Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) requirements. **The draft protocol is based on HHSC's developing approach and is subject to change based on feedback from Texas stakeholders, HHSC leadership and CMS. CMS must approve the protocol before Texas regions can move forward with DSRIP projects.** The draft protocol outlines the minimum number of projects, organization of the Regional Healthcare Partnership (RHP) Plan, plan review process, required

reporting, allocation of available pool funds, valuation of projects, disbursement of funds, and plan modifications. While the entire protocol is subject to change, HHSC is unsure whether CMS will approve the State's proposed approach to the following items outlined in the draft protocol based on discussions to date: DSRIP requirements to be eligible for UC payments, UC and DSRIP allocation methodology, methodology for allocating funding among DSRIP Categories, the minimum number of projects, valuation of projects, and variation of requirements across regions.

Feedback due May 31, 2012: HHSC is seeking public feedback on the draft Program Funding and Mechanics Protocol by **Thursday, May 31, 2012**. HHSC will only accept public comments submitted via the attached Feedback Form and by the due date.

May 23, 2012 Webinar / Conference Call, 3:30-5:00 p.m. Central – Overview Draft Program Funding and Mechanics (PFM) Protocol: During this webinar/conference call, HHSC will review the draft PFM Protocol. For the webinar / conference call, participants can choose to login online or to only call-in. All participants will receive the same information and can participate in the Questions-and-Answers session. To participate in the audio only, call 1-866-861-7912 at the provided date and time.

To participate in the webinar, at the provided date and time:

- 1) Go to www.webex.com
- 2) Click on Attend Meeting
- 3) Enter Meeting Number 805 606 709
- 4) Call 1-866-861-7912

Public Hearing Scheduled June 7, 2012 in Austin: On June 7, 2012 at 10:00 a.m., HHSC will hold a public hearing to obtain feedback on the draft Program Funding and Mechanics Protocol. This hearing will be held in the Brown Heatly 1420 room (4900 North Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78751 – directions available at: http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/about_hhsc/contact/directions.shtml). Additional details of the hearing agenda soon will be published on the HHSC public meetings page (<http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/news/meetings.asp>).

Please contact me if I may be of additional assistance on this or any other matter.

Michael Vasquez

