Meridian
Health Plan

April 4, 2012

Bureau of Program and Reimbursement Analysis
Division of Medical Programs
Healthcare and Family Services
201 South Grand Avenue East
Springfield, Illinois 62763-0002

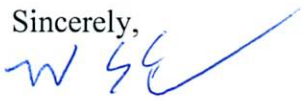
**Re: Cook County Health and Hospitals System's Care Coordination Enhancements and Bridge to ACA – Medicaid 1115 Waiver**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in response to the Proposed 1115 Waiver Demonstration Project to Cover the Uninsured in Cook County (hereinafter the "Waiver"). I seek clarification from the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services ("HFS") regarding the Waiver. Specifically, I am inquiring about the following sentence in the Executive Summary: "[w]hile this waiver application is written with a focus on Cook County, the waiver could provide for any willing county in Illinois to participate if HFS and CMS standards are met." If HFS expands the Waiver to additional counties, must the county participate? In other words, will HFS allow an entity other than a county (i.e., a private entity), who meets the requirements of HFS and CMS participate as the facilitating entity in the Waiver?

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Matthew S. Ehrlich
Senior Staff Attorney