



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Bob Wise
Governor

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Paul L. Nusbaum
Secretary

Dear Provider,

This letter is the official announcement of the opening enrollment period for those agencies and individuals who are interested in considering whether or not they want to become certified providers of Socially Necessary Services. Included with this letter are a fact sheet explaining the new category of Socially Necessary Services and enrollment materials.

The initial enrollment period closes May 1, 2004. If, after reading the materials, you decide not to enroll now you may do so at a later date. It is the goal of the Department to secure the largest possible pool of providers in order to insure that all appropriate services are available to the families and children we serve.

I realize that a change of this magnitude may result in many questions. A web site has been developed which will provide additional information about this initiative. You may also submit questions via the web site. The answers to all questions will be posted periodically. The address of the web site is www.wvdhhr.org/bcf/.

As with any change of this magnitude there may be uncertainties and there certainly will be challenges. While you are reviewing the enrollment materials I encourage you to think creatively about the opportunities this change presents. For example: if you are the director of an agency you may want to consider expanding the scope of the locations your agency will serve. Historically, some rural counties have been chronically under served and the Department is committed to making sure that necessary services are available statewide. Or, you may want to consider providing new services in addition to the ones your agency traditionally offers.

It is clear from the federal review of our Child Welfare programs that improvements in casework practice and service delivery must be made if we are to meet the national goals for safety, permanency and well being. The development of Socially Necessary Services is one of the keys to achieving these goals. Through the enrollment process I am extending an invitation to you and your staff to join with me and my staff as we work to better serve families and children.

Sincerely,

Fred Boothe
Commissioner

