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State of New York Department of Health Health Home Program

In 2011, the New York State Department of Health announced a new program focused on Medicaid members that suffered from one or more of seven chronic illnesses or diagnosed behavioral/mental illness issues, including substance abuse. New York State's Health Home program is based on a CMS initiative to provide additional care management to this population, with the goal of reducing inpatient/outpatient and ER occurrences. CMS is providing program funding to states whose plans are approved for up to three years. The longevity of the program after those three years will depend on experience and outcomes.

SDOH has divided the rollout of the Health Homes program into three phases, with counties in the state assigned to one of the three phases.

Most of New York's highly populated counties are assigned to Phases 1 and 2. The application process that the State implemented was on a very aggressive timeline, as was the subsequent implementation for those entities that became 'designated' Health Homes. Counties that were included in Phase 1 are supposed to begin outreach and enrolling members starting in February 2012. Phase 2 counties are currently targeting April 2012.

For those organizations who have been designated as either a provider-led Health Home or a Managed Care Plan-designated Health Home, there is a significant amount of process and infrastructure development and implementation that must take place in a very short timeframe.

Sharp Decisions delivers for Providers & Payers

Sharp Decisions has been working with some New York's largest providers and health plans since the initial announcement of the Health Home program. With our experience we can help your organization jump-start planning and implementation, and bypass many of the potential hurdles and pitfalls. Our involvement with the Health Home program has encompassed all aspects of:

- Program analysis against current operations
- Membership analysis based on State's predictive eligible population
- Program and Financial modeling
- Participation in State webinars and meetings
- Development of staffing models
- Process planning with both Provider-led Health Homes, as well as Managed Care Plan Health Homes
- Development of information and infrastructure requirements
- Startup and launch planning

With locations across the United States and globally, Sharp Decisions stands at the ready to serve your healthcare consulting, project management, and staffing needs wherever and whenever they may be. For more information about Sharp Decisions and our healthcare services, please visit our website at www.sharpdecisions.com or call us at 212.403.7567.

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