

To: MCIL PAS Consumers

From: David Hancox, Executive Director

Date: June 16, 2011

RE: Effects of Potential State Shutdown

As you all likely know, there is an anticipated state operational shutdown that could take effect July 1, 2011, if a budget agreement is not reached between the Minnesota Legislature and the Governor.

Currently, both the Governor and the State Attorney General have petitioned the court to identify Personal Care Attendant (PCA) Services (and many others) as “essential services.” We are hopeful that the court will not only require the continuation of PAS services during a shutdown period, but that a court order will also require the state to continue to reimburse providers for those services.

MCIL understands how difficult and stressful this situation is for everyone involved. This communication is intended to provide transparency, and to assure you that we are continuing to monitor the situation and to communicate our concerns to the Department of Human Services, elected officials and the Governor’s office.

MCIL is in solid financial condition. However, if the courts do not require continued payment for PCA services our reserves will be severely challenged.

Here is what we know at this time.

IF, the courts identify PCA services as essential, and order the state to continue payments, there will be no interruption in services to MCIL consumers.

IF, the courts identify PCA services as essential, but DO NOT order the state to continue payments, MCIL will be forced to temporarily suspend PAS services, effective midnight, June 30, 2011.

What should I do now? Because there will not be a ruling by the courts until June 23rd, you may wish to begin considering or making alternative plans for your care beginning July 1, 2011.

Why would MCIL have to suspend services so immediately? We would need to do so because two pay periods in June (June 3-17 and June 18-July 1) would require expenditures for

which we would not be immediately reimbursed. If MCIL payroll to DSPs for services delivered in June are not immediately reimbursed, it would significantly reduce MCILs cash reserves. With reserves reduced so quickly, MCIL would have to temporarily suspend services. We genuinely suspect that many other providers face similar challenges.

What can you do? MCIL would strongly advise that you contact your local Legislators, both House and Senate member, and the Governor's office and urge them to support the continuation of PAS services during a shutdown, and to reach an agreement to pay for PCA and other health/safety services.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or to express concerns.

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