

10-5-06

The Kansas Health Policy Authority (KHPA) welcomed the Department of Administration's Director of Purchases' decision of 10-4-06 to uphold KHPA's decision of awarding managed care organization (MCO) contracts to UniCare Health Plan of Kansas, Inc. and Children's Mercy Family Health Partners.

In August, KHPA awarded two new contracts for beneficiaries in the state Medicaid and HealthWave (State Children's Health Insurance Program) programs, citing their affordability and technical proposals. Two unsuccessful bidders, Coventry and FirstGuard/Centene, which is the current vendor, and whose contract ends December 31, 2006, protested the decision to the Director of Purchases.

The Kansas Health Policy Authority chose UniCare and Children's Mercy Family Health Partners because they had the best technical proposals in terms of value added options for beneficiaries and quality management.

With the protest now resolved, the Kansas Health Policy Authority continues to move forward with the implementation date of January 1, 2007. This timeframe was set during the competitive bidding process in February of this year, when the Request for Proposal was issued by the then-Division of Health Policy and Finance.

Both UniCare and Children's Mercy Family Health Partners have been actively recruiting providers. Additional recruitment of providers will be a priority over the next three months, and will be monitored closely by KHPA.

Regular updates on the Medicaid managed care transition can be found at www.khpa.ks.gov.