



INTERIM COMMISSIONER
Jon Weizenbaum

September 24, 2012

To: Community Based Alternatives Providers

Subject: Information Letter No. 12-79
Option for Multi-Regional Community Based Alternatives Contracts

As part of a broader ongoing effort to provide more flexibility in structuring contracts this Information Letter (IL) addresses a specific concern raised by providers of Community Based Alternatives (CBA) waiver services. CBA providers have requested the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) allow multi-regional contracts to address an issue created with the expansion of STAR+PLUS across DADS regions. In most regions where expansion of STAR+PLUS has occurred, some counties in the region are not included in the STAR+PLUS service area. Providers have requested DADS allow these non-STAR+PLUS counties to be added to existing CBA contracts covering other regions.

DADS contracts for most 1915(c) waivers and programs have generally been limited to single regions. Recognizing the impact of STAR+PLUS expansion on single-region contracts, DADS is providing options for either amending CBA contracts to allow the addition of non-STAR+PLUS counties or allowing the provider to apply for new contracts covering non-STAR+PLUS counties in adjacent regions. The approach outlined below accommodates provider needs, while not creating inefficiencies for DADS, and does not affect either ongoing contract actions, sanctions, or licensure enforcement actions.

1. Options for Changing Counties Covered by Existing Contracts

Region 1 – Non-STAR+PLUS counties may be added to CBA contracts covering Region 2 or Region 9. If any of those counties are added to another contract, they must all be added to contracts for Region 2 and/or Region 9. The resulting configurations of counties must be contiguous.

Regions 2, 4, and 9 – These regions are not affected by STAR+PLUS expansion. Counties in these regions may not be added to contracts created for other regions.

Region 3 – Cooke, Grayson, and Fannin counties may be added as a group to CBA contracts for Region 2 or Region 4. Palo Pinto, Somervell, and Erath counties may be added as a group to CBA contracts for Region 2 or Region 7.

Region 5 – The counties not included in STAR+PLUS are Angelina, Houston, Nacogdoches, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, and Trinity. These may be added as a group to Region 4 CBA contracts.

Region 6 - Colorado County may be added to CBA contracts for Region 7 or Region 8 if Lavaca, Jackson, Gonzales, or DeWitt are included in Region 8 CBA contracts.

Region 7 – Region 7 counties may not be added to CBA contracts created for other regions because of the large number of consumers still being served under Region 7 CBA contracts after STAR+PLUS expansion.

Region 8 – Gonzales, Lavaca, Jackson, and Dewitt counties may be added as a group to Region 7 CBA contracts. Gillespie, Kerr, Real, Edwards, Val Verde, Kinney, Uvalde, Zavala, Frio, Dimmit, and La Salle counties may be added to Region 7 CBA contracts or Region 9 CBA contracts, or divided between Region 7 and Region 9. If any of these contracts are reassigned, the CBA contracts for all of these counties must all be reassigned to Region 7 or Region 9. The resulting configurations of counties must be contiguous. (Please note from the discussion on Region 6 the option for adding Colorado County to the Region 8 contract.)

Region 10 – Culberson, Jeff Davis, Presidio, and Brewster counties may be added as a group to Region 9 CBA contracts.

2. Contract Monitoring and Compliance Considerations

- a) If a provider amends a CBA contract to add non-STAR+PLUS counties from another region, contract and fiscal compliance monitoring will be conducted at the provider's location in the region to which the counties were added. The provider is responsible for assuring timely availability of records at the site of the monitoring review.
- b) The amended contract is subject, in its entirety, to any sanctions applied to the contract.
- c) Counties associated with a contract for which adverse contract actions and sanctions are in effect or proposed cannot be transferred to other contracts.
- d) Counties associated with a provisional or two-year term contract scheduled to expire due to unsatisfactory monitoring results cannot be transferred to other contracts.
- e) When a contract created using this flexibility, results in only some of the counties being subject to electronic visit verification (EVV) requirements, the monitoring will require EVV documentation for those sample records related to individuals residing in EVV- mandated counties. Paper documentation will be reviewed if EVV is not mandated for the county of residence of an individual in the monitoring sample.

3. The Process for Reconfiguring the Geographic Coverage of Existing Contracts.

- a) Providers wishing to transfer counties to a different contract, as described above, shall submit a request to amend the CBA contract to which counties would be added.
- b) The end date of the amended contract will not change.
- c) All other aspects of the contract amendment process are applicable.

4. Considerations for New Contracts Using this Flexibility

- a) For new CBA contracts, the contract coverage options outlined above are available.
- b) The provider license associated with the new CBA contract must cover all counties the contract will cover.
- c) The provider's identified place of business for the CBA contract must be located in the region containing the greatest number of counties under the contract.
- d) All other aspects of the provider enrollment process apply.

These new options will become effective October 1, 2012.

Should you have any questions, please contact Paul Straka, Access and Intake Division, Community Services Section, at (512) 438-3460 or paul.straka@dads.state.tx.us.

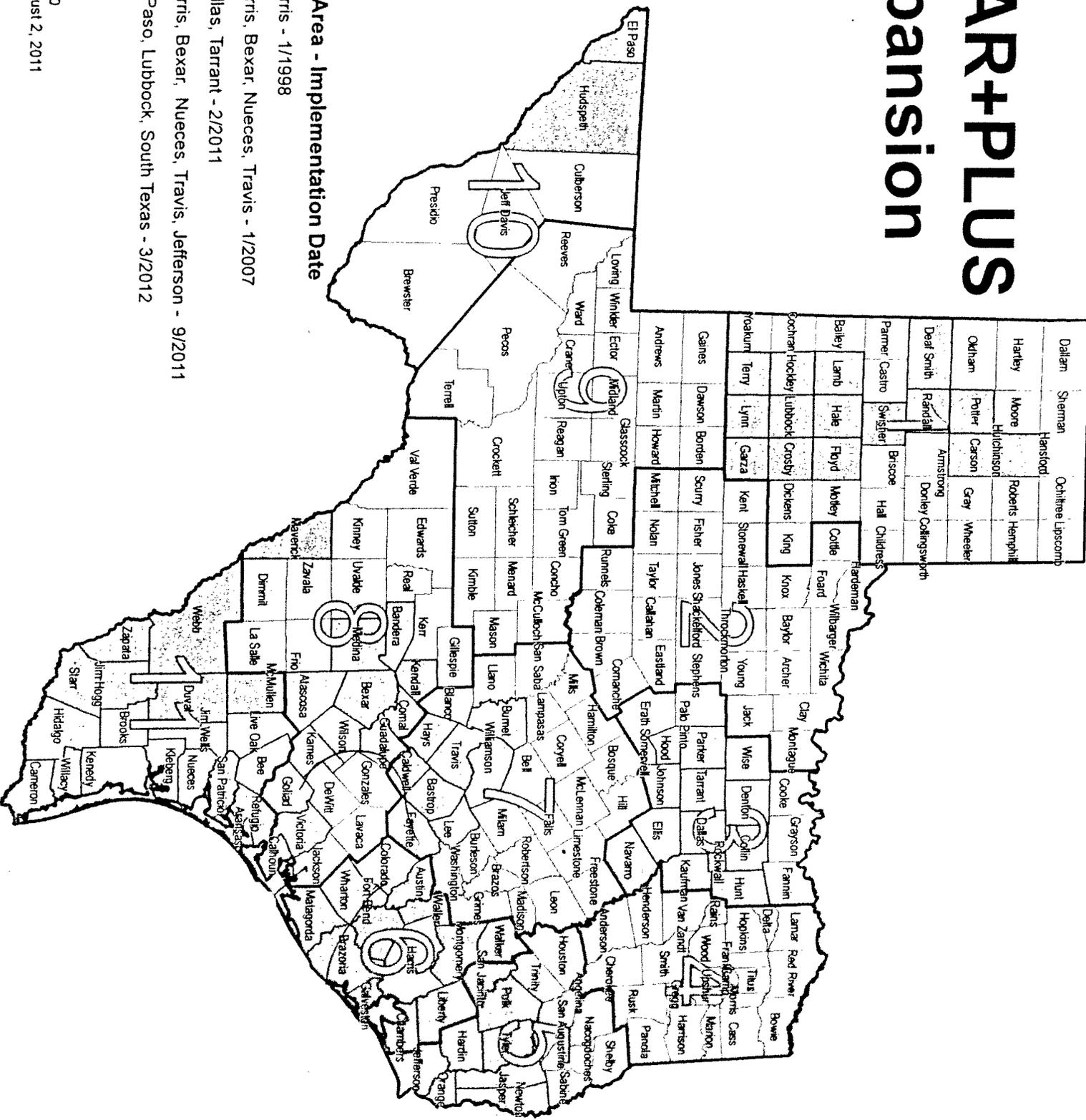
Sincerely,

[signature on file]

William Campbell
Manager
Community Services Contracts
Access and Intake

WC:cg

STAR+PLUS Expansion



- Service Area - Implementation Date**
- Harris - 1/1998
 - Harris, Bexar, Nueces, Travis - 1/2007
 - Dallas, Tarrant - 2/2011
 - Harris, Bexar, Nueces, Travis, Jefferson - 9/2011
 - El Paso, Lubbock, South Texas - 3/2012

Data Source:
 HHSC 9/2010
 Updated August 2, 2011