



COMMISSIONER
Chris Traylor

March 18, 2010

Dear Home and Community-based Services program providers and MRA staff:

The 2010-2011 General Appropriations Act (Article II, Special Provisions, Section 48, Senate Bill 1, 81st Legislature, Regular Session, 2009) requires the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) to transfer case management functions in the Home and Community-based Services (HCS) Program from the HCS program providers to the state's MRAs. Implementation of this change will occur statewide on June 1, 2010. After June 1, 2010, people enrolled in the HCS Program will receive service coordination from their local MRA. All other HCS service components will continue to be delivered by HCS program providers.

Large system transformations can be both challenging and exciting. This initiative, and in particular, the new service planning methodology that will accompany this transition, is a change for everyone involved, including the individuals and families we serve. The case management transition provides us the opportunity to expand upon the values and beliefs that are the foundation of person-directed planning. Our focus remains that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are afforded the opportunity to participate in their communities, gain and maintain relationships of their own choosing, express their own preferences, make their own choices and follow their own dreams and desires.

Thank you for the time and hard work you have invested in preparation for these changes. I commend all of you for your continued efforts and dedication to meet the needs of the individuals and families who receive HCS Program services across Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Traylor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chris" and last name "Traylor" clearly distinguishable.

Chris Traylor