

March 29, 2010

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Joe DeMattos, President
Health Facilities Association of Maryland
7135 Minstrel Way, Suite 104
Columbia, Maryland 21045

Anthony Brown
Lt. Governor

Brenda Donald
Secretary

Isabella Firth, President
LifeSpan Network
10280 Old Columbia Road #220
Columbia, Maryland 21046

Dear Mr. DeMattos and Ms. Firth:

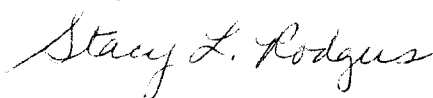
As you know, we have worked closely with representatives of the nursing home provider community on the Long Term Care Work Group. We have listened keenly to your colleagues' feedback and have been advised that the stuck cases process, instituted by DHR's Action Transmittal 09-33, is too cumbersome and labor-intensive. In response to this feedback, we have decided, effective today, to suspend the stuck cases process for 60 days and reinforce efforts that are already underway to address the Long Term Care backlog.

Over the next 60 days, we will work aggressively to eliminate the Long Term Care backlog. We are confident that the backlog elimination activities will significantly alleviate providers' concerns about cases that are stuck. We will also work with industry representatives on the Work Group to develop a simplified and streamlined process for nursing homes to check on the progress of cases that are not moving through the system despite provision of all requested information and documentation.

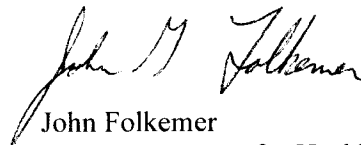
In the interim, providers who have concerns about serious situations with very old cases may contact Rosemary Malone, Deputy Executive Director, Family Investment Administration, DHR. Ms. Malone may be reached via email at rmalone@dhr.state.md.us or via phone at (410) 767 – 7949.

We greatly appreciate your support as we forge ahead with this backlog elimination project. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



Stacy L. Rodgers
Deputy Secretary for Programs
Department of Human Resources



John Folkemer
Deputy Secretary for Health Care Financing
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

cc: Secretary Brenda Donald
Secretary John Colmers
Members, Long Term Care Work Group
Local Directors and Assistant Directors for Family Investment
Bureau of Long Term Care Eligibility