

Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) 516 West Loockerman St., Dover, DE 19904 302-739-4553 (voice) 302-739-6126 (fax) http://www.gacec.delaware.gov

March 29, 2021

Nicole Cunningham Planning, Policy and Quality Unit Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance 1901 North DuPont Highway/P O Box 906 New Castle, DE 19720-0906

## RE: <u>24 DE Reg. 851 [DHSS/DMMA Proposed Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Regulation (March 1, 2021)]</u>

Dear Ms. Cunningham:

The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) has reviewed the Delaware Health and Social Services (DHSS)/Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance (DMMA) proposal to amend Title XIX of the Medicaid State Plan regarding Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT). The changes would make coverage of the MAT benefit mandatory where previously it was covered under the optional services sections of the Medicaid State Plan. Council **endorses** the proposed amendment.

This regulation was promulgated in response to the Substance Use Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities (SUPPORT) Act, signed into law on October 24, 2018. The SUPPORT Act was a comprehensive and bipartisan effort to address the opioid epidemic. The act requires Medicaid plans to include coverage of MAT for participants in the state plan or waiver of the state plan. The SUPPORT Act requires state Medicaid plans to cover all FDA approved drugs, counseling services, and behavioral therapy from October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2025.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our endorsement and observations. Please feel free to contact Wendy Strauss or me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ann C Fisher

Ann C. Fisher Chairperson

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