



March 13, 2020

Jesse Samples  
Tennessee Health Care Association

Carol Westlake  
Tennessee Disability Coalition

Grace S. Smith  
Council on Aging of Middle TN

Michele Johnson  
Tennessee Justice Center

Mr. Samples, Ms. Westlake, Ms. Smith, and Ms. Johnson:

I am in receipt of your letter dated March 11, 2020, concerning eligibility redeterminations for certain TennCare members at elevated risk for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Since assuming the role of TennCare Director, I have been closely monitoring this situation and been in close contact with state medical professionals and CMS regarding the risks posed by COVID-19 and how we can best ensure the health and safety of TennCare members at greatest risk from COVID-19.

To that end and consistent with Governor Lee's Executive Order No. 14, please be advised that I have determined to use the flexibility available to me under federal regulations to temporarily suspend the eligibility redetermination process for TennCare members residing in nursing facilities or intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Eligibility redeterminations for these members that were otherwise scheduled to occur during March or April will be delayed until later in the year. Individuals selected for redetermination in February but who have not responded will also be rescheduled for a future month. More communication about this pause in redeterminations will be forthcoming from TennCare in the near future.

My team and I will continue to monitor the progress of the COVID-19 epidemic in Tennessee and the advice of our public health officials to determine whether this temporary pause in redeterminations should be continued past April, as well as whether additional actions should be taken in order to protect the health and safety of TennCare members.

Thank you for your letter and for your interest in the in the health and welfare of vulnerable TennCare members.

Letter to Mr. Samples, Ms. Westlake, Ms. Smith, & Ms. Johnson

March 13, 2020

Page 2

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Smith', written in a cursive style.

Stephen Smith

Director, Division of TennCare

cc: Governor Bill Lee  
Lieutenant Governor Randy McNally  
Speaker of the House of Representatives Cameron Sexton  
Commissioner Lisa Piercey, MD, MBA, FAAP  
Commissioner Stuart McWhorter  
Governor's Coronavirus Task Force