



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Georgia Healthy Families Plans Staged Implementation to Ensure Smooth Transition for Members

Atlanta – The Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) announced today the staged implementation of the Georgia Healthy Families (GHF) program, which will transition 1.2 million Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids members into a managed care delivery system. The program will be fully implemented across the state (six regions) by December 2006.

Members in the Atlanta and Central regions will begin enrollment in a Care Management Organization (CMO) on December 1. The enrollment process will continue through March 15. Members will begin receiving health care services from their chosen health plan beginning April 1 instead of January 1. “We have extended the enrollment period for members to make a selection from 30 days to 45 days to ensure that members have the maximum amount of time to learn and make good decisions about which health plan is best for them,” said Tim Burgess, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Community Health. The extended enrollment period will also allow providers the benefit of additional time to enroll and be listed in the initial directory.

Communications challenges presented in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina have also contributed to a longer implementation period for these initial regions. “Katrina has interrupted communications all over the country, and Georgia is affected as well. In light of these challenges, it’s extremely important that we make decisions which will ensure a safe, orderly and problem-free transition for our members,” adds Burgess.

DCH awarded contracts to Amerigroup Community Care, WellCare of Georgia, and Peach State Health Plan in July 2005 to provide quality health care services to Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids members in a coordinated environment. The North and East regions will begin providing care on July 1, 2006 followed by the Southwest and Southeast regions on December 1, 2006.

“The Governor, DCH and our health plan partners are all committed to serving our members in a clearly-focused effort that will ensure a successful transition for our members, providers and the citizens of Georgia,” says Burgess.

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Region	Counties	Contractors
Atlanta	Barrow, Bartow, Butts, Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Haralson, Henry, Jasper, Newton, Paulding, Pickens, Rockdale, Spalding, Walton	Amerigroup Community Care Peach State Health Plan WellCare of Georgia
Central	Baldwin, Bibb, Bleckley, Chattahoochee, Crawford, Crisp, Dodge, Dooly, Harris, Heard, Houston, Johnson, Jones, Lamar, Laurens, Macon, Marion, Meriwether, Monroe, Muscogee, Peach, Pike, Pulaski, Talbot, Taylor, Telfair, Treutlen, Troup, Twiggs, Upson, Wheeler, Wilcox, Wilkinson	Peach State Health Plan WellCare of Georgia
East	Burke, Columbia, Emanuel, Glascock, Greene, Hancock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Lincoln, McDuffie, Putnam, Richmond, Taliaferro, Warren, Washington, Wilkes	Amerigroup Community Care WellCare of Georgia
North	Banks, Catoosa, Chattooga, Clarke, Dade, Dawson, Elbert, Fannin, Floyd, Franklin, Gilmer, Gordon, Habersham, Hall, Hart, Jackson, Lumpkin, Madison, Morgan, Murray, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Polk, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union, Walker, White, Whitfield	Amerigroup Community Care WellCare of Georgia
Southeast	Appling, Bacon, Brantley, Bryan, Bulloch, Camden, Candler, Charlton, Chatham, Effingham, Evans, Glynn, Jeff Davis, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, Montgomery, Pierce, Screven, Tattnall, Toombs, Ware, Wayne	Amerigroup Community Care WellCare of Georgia
Southwest	Atkinson, Baker, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brooks, Calhoun, Clay, Clinch, Coffee, Colquitt, Cook, Decatur, Dougherty, Early, Echols, Grady, Irwin, Lanier, Lee, Lowndes, Miller, Mitchell, Quitman, Randolph, Schley, Seminole, Stewart, Sumter, Terrell, Thomas, Tift, Turner, Webster, Worth	Peach State Health Plan WellCare of Georgia