



Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Attention: SMMCAC Advisory Committee, Network Adequacy & Access to Care Subcommittee

Via Email: OPP_SMMCAC@hhsc.state.tx.us

Re: HTW into Managed Care

Dear Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) SMMCAC NAAC Subcommittee,

On behalf of the **Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition (TWHC)**, thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback on the transition of the Healthy Texas Women Program (HTW) into Managed Care.

TWHC and its 80+ healthcare, faith, and community-based member organizations are dedicated to improving the health and well-being of Texas women, babies, and families by ensuring access to preventive healthcare for all Texas women. Access to these services throughout a woman's reproductive years – including health screenings and contraception – contributes to healthy, planned pregnancies as well as early detection and treatment of cancers and other chronic conditions.

In alignment with this mission, we wish to highlight a few recommendations from our coalition regarding the ongoing process of moving HTW into Managed Care.

- We would strongly recommend that the agency take any available opportunities in the coming months and years to allow patients to use a streamlined Medicaid Family Planning Only application, when applying for HTW benefits. The MAGI application that is currently required is extremely onerous for both providers and their patients and our membership reports significant delays and barriers to coverage due to this long form application.
- We recommend that MCO contracts include a provision that requires them to have a consistent point of contact for HTW providers, and that this person be available for troubleshooting issues and billing questions.
- As a part of MCO readiness and education activities, HHSC should offer every available opportunity to learn about state and federal family planning requirements including free choice of provider and prior authorization policies before implementation of HTW into Managed Care.
- As part of the transition calls with MCOs, TWHC recommends the agency bring in women's health stakeholders and women's health providers.

TWHC appreciates the opportunity to weigh in on this transition, and we look forward to partnering with HHSC to support providers during this time.

If you have any questions or if we can provide further information, feel free to contact me at (210) 223-4589 or EDelgado@healthyfutures-tx.org.



**Texas Women's
Healthcare Coalition**

PROMOTING ACCESS TO PREVENTIVE
HEALTHCARE FOR ALL TEXAS WOMEN

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Delgado
Chair, Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition