



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Medical Assistance Services

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October 29, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Walter A. Stosch, Chair
Senate Finance Committee

The Honorable Lacey E. Putney, Chair
House Appropriations Committee

FROM: Cynthia B. Jones *Cynthia B. Jones*

RE: Report on Item 310H of the 2012 Appropriations Act related to
The Veteran Benefit Enhancement Program (VBEP)

Item 310H of the 2012 Appropriations Act directed the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) to report to the Governor and Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees the savings associated with assisting veterans through the Veteran Benefit Enhancement Program (VBEP).

Specifically the Act stated:

"The Department of Medical Assistance Services shall report on the feasibility and potential savings to the Medicaid program of an initiative in cooperation with the Department of Veteran Services, to assist veterans, who also happen to be Medicaid members, in accessing veterans benefits through the federal government. The Department shall submit the report to the Governor and Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees by November 1, 2012."

Please be advised that there have been no savings realized as of this reporting period. The program is scheduled to go live the beginning of the third quarter of FY 2013.

The Honorable Walter A. Stosch, Chair
The Honorable Lacey E. Putney, Chair
October 29, 2012
Page Two

The VBEP is a collaborative effort between the Department of Veteran Services (DVS), Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS). Planning and implementation activities are ongoing at this time with several major milestones having already been achieved:

1. MOU's have been secured with Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) for the Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS) data match process.
2. Data exchange processes have been established between DMAS, DSS and DVS.
3. Testing of data match files is scheduled for the second quarter of FY 2013.
4. Resourcing the project at DVS and DMAS is currently underway.

Project next steps include:

- Implementing a data match process that will identify persons enrolled in Medicaid who may also have Veterans' benefits available to them.
- Development of a communications plan by which DVS will inform Medicaid-enrolled veterans of the VA benefits potentially available to them, so they can make an informed decision.
- Project reporting, and cost savings/avoidance forecasting. This can occur after a PARIS match file is returned and reviewed to identify Veterans accessing Medicaid services in VA that have access to, but are not fully leveraging federal health programs.

Cc: The Honorable William A. Hazel, Jr., M.D., Secretary of Health and Human Resources
The Honorable Terrie L. Suit, Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security
Paul E. Galanti, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Veterans Services
Martin D. Brown, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Social Services