



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
*Office of the Governor*

John Littel  
Secretary of Health and Human Resources

November 21, 2022

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Janet Howell  
Co-Chair, Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee

The Honorable George Barker  
Co-Chair, Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Barry Knight  
Chair, House Appropriations Committee

Cheryl Roberts  
Director, Department of Medical Assistance Services

**FROM:** John Littel  
Secretary of Health and Human Resources

**SUBJECT:** Task Force on Eligibility Redetermination

Pursuant to Item 283. H.1.:

The Secretary of Health and Human Resources shall establish a Task Force on Eligibility Redetermination to ensure that the Commonwealth redetermines eligibility for Medicaid in the most efficient and prudent manner possible to meet the unwinding requirement associated with the end of the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) and the provisions of the “Maintenance of Effort (MOE)” requirement in Medicaid pursuant to the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 166-127).

In the first week of the Administration, in part due to concerns expressed to me and the Governor’s office about the so-called “unwinding” by legislators and advocates, I established an internal task force on redeterminations since there was no existing plan in place to conduct this process. That group formed the basis of the Task Force required by the budget language and continues to work with the federal government and other relevant state agencies.

Beginning in July 2022, representatives from the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS), the Department of Social Services (DSS), the Department of Planning and Budget (DPB), and staff from

the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees have met monthly to discuss the current status of eligibility and unwinding activities, including but not limited to system updates, coordination with health plans, outreach work, and updates on recruitment efforts and vacancies within the local Departments of Social Services (LDSS).

In the past quarter, multiple system updates have been put in place to prepare the Commonwealth for the eventual unwinding of the MOE. These system updates include improvements to the automated partial review process responsible for shifting individuals' eligibility; including to expansion coverage, once they have aged out of child coverage, or for pregnant individuals once their postpartum period ends. Additional systems updates include additional reporting during the unwinding period to track and monitor coming into all compliance standards and strengthening processes to ensure proper closures as allowed through the MOE.

In addition to system improvements, DMAS has worked extensively with the Medicaid managed care plans to ensure that member contact information was up to date and that communications included information about upcoming redetermination.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) have committed to giving states a 60-day notice prior to the end of the COVID-19 PHE. States were finally notified on October 13 that the PHE was extended for the full 90-days. As such, the Taskforce on Eligibility Redetermination meetings have continued with further planning focused on reviewing the results of system enhancements, monitoring the unwinding plan as a whole, possible resource gaps within the local agencies, and determining any other bodies of work that can be brought into compliance prior to unwinding.