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## KANCARE RENEWAL PROCESS REMAINS ON TRACK

TOPEKA – Lt. Governor Jeff Colyer, M.D. today said and that the CMS decision to deny Kansas’ request that the current KanCare program be extended for one year is politically motivated and that the findings of a CMS audit of KanCare, the State of Kansas’ Medicaid managed care program, are largely without substance.

“This is simply an ugly parting shot from the Obama administration at Governor Brownback on their way out the door,” Lt. Governor Jeff Colyer, M.D. said. “It is politically motivated pure and simple, and we expect this situation to be resolved quickly once the new administration in Washington comes into office.”

“The next KanCare contract will extend beyond 2025 and it is unreasonable to attempt to bind Kansas to Obamacare at the last minute,” Dr. Colyer said.

“In November the state received a preliminary audit report and we had already begun to address these issues,” Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Secretary Susan Mosier, M.D. said. “There are no revelations in this most recent audit report.”

“The state continues to work with CMS to write the new waiver application, hold the required public meetings and finish the RFP. Once the state indicates it is working on a renewal application and begins the process of public meetings, I am confident we will be granted the needed extension,” Dr. Mosier said.

“It appears Kansas was treated differently and held to a different standard than the 11 other states that applied for an extension of their Medicaid waivers and were granted their extensions,” Dr. Mosier said.

“CMS led the agency to understand in mid-December that the current waiver would be extended,” said Mike Randol, State Medicaid Director and Director of State Healthcare Finance.

“We do acknowledge that we did not hold public meetings before applying for the waiver extension. Because we were asking for an extension of the current waiver, CMS led us to believe that we did not have to hold those meetings until we had substantive changes to discuss.”

Last year Kansas had begun work on the new Medicaid waiver and the RFP that would have solicited contractors to manage the program. The original plan was to hold a series of public sessions the first week in December to discuss the renewal application, but those were cancelled after a decision was made to delay the waiver renewal application and RFP for a year. Kansas applied to CMS for an extension, which was denied in a letter from CMS that the Kansas Department of Health and Environment received late Tuesday, January 17.

The current KanCare waiver does not expire until December 31, 2017.