



**State of Mississippi
Executive Department**

Office of Governor Phil Bryant

September 19, 2017

DRAFT MEMORANDUM FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TO: Dr. David Dzielak
FROM: Governor Bryant
SUBJECT: Medicaid Eligibility Determination through Department of Human Services

Section 1.2(d) and Attachment 1.2-D of the existing Medicaid State Plan reflect that Medicaid eligibility determinations can be made by staff of the Mississippi Department of Human Services. Miss. Code Section 43-13-121(1)(g) authorizes the Mississippi Division of Medicaid to cooperate and contract with other agencies “for the purpose of coordinating Medicaid provided under this article and eliminating duplication and inefficiency in the Medicaid program.” The Mississippi Department of Human Services is already conducting eligibility determinations for other federal entitlement benefits and will be able to provide increased efficiency in the eligibility determination process for the Medicaid program.

As such, please have the appropriate people at Medicaid explore contracting options with the Mississippi Department of Human Services for Medicaid eligibility determination, including, but not be limited to, eligibility policy, determinations, and all waivers thereof. Also, by October 15, please prepare draft legislation that would amend Miss. Code Section 43-13-115 by placing eligibility determinations with the Mississippi Department of Human Services. Codifying the relationships and respective responsibilities of the agencies during the 2018 Session may help provide additional clarity.

Please meet with John Davis this week to discuss contracting and other steps that will need to be taken to accomplish these goals expeditiously. Do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions.