



July 19, 2017

Mr. Rocky Thompson  
Interim Director  
Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care  
Department of Health & Human Services  
PO Box 95026, Lincoln, NE 68509-5026

Dear Mr. Thompson,

On June 26<sup>th</sup>, the NDA's Executive Director met with you and several others to discuss transition to the new Dental Benefit Manager, MCNA. Mr. O'Doherty informed you that many dentists had called the NDA office detailing several contract clauses that would prohibit them from signing the Provider Agreement. Mr. O'Doherty offered to forward those concerns to DHHS and one of your staff said that they would contact Mr. O'Doherty. To date, no one from DHHS has contacted Mr. O'Doherty about the Provider Agreement. In addition, the Provider Manual which is part of the contract, is still not available. Our association highly recommends our members read any and all contracts prior to signing. This is common and appropriate advice. We are concerned about participation numbers dropping due to the lack of a complete contract.

Yesterday, we were informed that the two dentists hired as dental consultants for Medicaid were no longer employed with DHHS to review Medicaid claims, effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. Needless to say, we are alarmed with this action. Continuity of the program is critical during the transition. MCNA informed us yesterday that they will not be reviewing claims until the transition to them begins, apparently later this year.

We are worried who is currently reviewing the dental claims for Medicaid.

471 NAC 3-002.02B states that "*the determination of medical necessity for payment purposes is based upon the **professional judgment** of the Department's consultants.*"

Only dentists have professional judgment to read a dental radiograph or examine orthodontic models to make claim determinations.

The NDA is trying to assist DHHS in the transition to the Dental Benefit Manager. However, continued silence and the releasing of your dental consultants, along with fees 40-70 percent below market, concerns us. We are troubled about continued erosion of an already fragile system, especially dentist participation.

If you wish to discuss this issue, please give me a call at 402-393-1992 or email [brettthomsen@yahoo.com](mailto:brettthomsen@yahoo.com)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brett Thomsen", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Brett Thomsen, DDS  
President

C: Senator Merv Riepe