

JB Pritzker
Governor



Marc D. Smith
Acting Director

March 16, 2020

Dear Caregiver,

Like all of you, I am concerned about the presence of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in Illinois and its potential effect on our staff, children in our care, and your family. ***The safety of the children and families we serve is, and always will be, my top priority.*** The state of Illinois is working around the clock to contain COVID-19.

As you know, children currently under the legal custody or guardianship of DCFS ("Youth in Care") were scheduled for enrollment on April 1, 2020 in a new HealthChoice Illinois managed care plan called YouthCare. **We are writing to inform you that we have decided to delay the transition for Youth in Care to managed care as a result of COVID-19.** As a result, Youth in Care will continue to receive coverage for healthcare under Medicaid fee-for-service.

We continue to work in partnership with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services and YouthCare to ensure this transition is as smooth as possible for you and your family, without any disruptions to healthcare services. We will be in contact once we have determined a new date for the transition.

We will continue to post important links and updates about the transition on our website at <https://dcfshhealthplan.illinois.gov/>. **If you have immediate questions or concerns, please contact the DCFS Advocacy Office by phone (800-232-3798) or email (DCFS.HealthPlan@illinois.gov).**

Caring for and protecting Illinois's most vulnerable children is the foundation of our mission. Thank you for your partnership in that mission and for your positive impact on the lives of the children who need you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marc D. Smith".

Marc D. Smith
Acting Director, Department of Children and Family Services