



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

WASHINGTON, DC 20201



JUN 28 2017

The Honorable Tom Udall
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Udall, Senator Heinrich, Representative Lujan and Representative Lujan Grisham:

Thank you for your letter of May 24, 2017, requesting that the Office of Inspector General (OIG) conduct work on the extent to which Medicaid managed care plans in New Mexico include behavioral health providers, as well as the capacity of those providers to meet the health care needs of the Medicaid population. This letter responds to your request and outlines the work that OIG will undertake.

OIG's work will include enrollees in New Mexico and four other States. Specifically, OIG will review the extent to which behavioral health providers are included in the States' managed care plans and the types of care offered by these providers. We will also assess the extent to which behavioral health providers have available appointments for new patients, the extent to which behavioral health providers have waiting lists, and the extent to which behavioral health providers are able to make referrals to other behavioral health providers for needed care. Finally, we plan to address ways to improve the continuity of care for Medicaid enrollees in the five States.

We will begin this work in fall 2017, and once we complete the work, we will share the report with you. If you have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Jason Wittenmen, Director of Congressional Affairs, at (202) 708-9755 or Jason.Wittenmen@oig.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Daniel R. Levinson
Inspector General