



April 6, 2021

SENT ELECTRONICALLY: Liz.Fowler@cms.hhs.gov

Liz Fowler, J.D. , Ph.D.
Deputy Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Director, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation
Health and Human Services

Dear Director Fowler:

Congratulations on your appointment as Deputy Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and as Director of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI). We are pleased to see that President Biden appointed someone with your breadth of experience in designing and implementing health care delivery and payment reforms, and understanding of the interconnectivity between health care and the economy to head this important Center to continue the drive toward value and re-imagining our health care delivery and payment system.

LeadingAge and our more than 5,000 nonprofit aging services providers and other mission-minded organizations touch millions of lives every day. Alongside our members and 38 state partners, we use applied research, advocacy, education, and community-building to make America a better place to grow old. Our membership encompasses the entire continuum of aging and disability services. We bring together the most inventive minds to lead and innovate solutions that support older adults wherever they call home. It may surprise you to hear that some of our aging services organizations also lead risk-based models and managed care plans. Some of these models they have designed themselves, tested and contracted with health plans under risk-based arrangements. For more information visit leadingage.org.

We share the President's interest in developing models that address the needs of older adults, address health care disparities, utilize technology to ensure access, reduce social isolation, share information and other tasks; and we, too, seek to invest in the long-term services and supports workforce (see [Make Care Work Pay](#)), as he outlined during the campaign. We know aging services providers have the competencies and capabilities to manage the populations they serve, regardless of settings but they must be meaningfully included in models, which means they are part of the care team, they are financially rewarded/incentivized for achieving the model's goals and they must be connected and technologically equipped for success.

Our LeadingAge Centers—LTSS Center at UMass Bostin, Center for Managed Care Solutions & Innovations, and Center for Aging Services Technologies (CAST)—have conducted considerable research and work, and outlined possible demonstrations or pilots to further redesign how we address the needs of older adults in society for a more integrated, person-centered approach.

We would like the opportunity to meet with you to learn more about your vision for CMMI and discuss how we might be able to assist you, the President and your staff in achieving important reforms that improve outcomes for older adults while lowering costs through integrated, risk-based and person-centered models.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Smith Sloan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katie Smith Sloan
President and CEO
LeadingAge