



HFS

Illinois Department of
Healthcare and Family Services

JB Pritzker, Governor

Elizabeth M. Whitehorn, Director

201 South Grand Avenue East, Springfield, Illinois 62763

Telephone: +1 217-782-1200, TTY: +1 800-526-5812

August 15, 2025

Skye Perryman

foia@democracyforward.org

RE: FOIA #25-529 Perryman

Dear Skye Perryman:

Thank you for writing to the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services with your request for information pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 ILCS 140/1 et seq.

Our Office received your FOIA request on August 1, 2025, for the following information:

Democracy Forward Foundation (“DFF”) requests that the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (“HFS”) produce the following within five (5) business days:

All electronic communications (including email messages, complete email chains, calendar invitations, or attachments thereto, as well as any text messages or messages sent on messaging platforms such as Microsoft Teams, Skype, WhatsApp, Signal, or GChat) between (a) The HFS officials included below and (b) the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services officials included below regarding (c) the Trump administration’s efforts to obtain data requested in CMS Deputy Administrator Drew Snyder’ s May 26th letter, *Ending Taxpayer Subsidization of Open Borders* and subsequent communication on the matter.¹

a. HFS Officials:

- I. Director Elizabeth Whitehorn**
- II. Chief of Staff Dana Kelly**
- III. Deputy Chief of Staff Aileen Kim**
- IV. Confidential Assistant to the Director Dorian Manion**
DFF-IL-HFS-25-1162
- V. Director of Legislative Affairs Heather Eagleton**
- VI. Director of State Medicaid and CHIP Laura Phelan**

b. CMS Officials:

- I. Administrator Dr. Mehmet Oz**
- II. Deputy Administrator and Chief of Staff Stephanie Carlton**
- III. Deputy Administrator John Brooks**
- IV. Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services Former Director and Deputy Administrator for the Drew Snyder**
- V. Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services Interim Acting Director Caprice Knapp**
- VI. Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services Deputy Director Anne Marie Costello**
- VII. Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services Deputy Director Sara Vitolo**

This request seeks records from May 26, 2025 until the date of the search.

On August 5, 2025, we had a phone conversation where I asked you to send me a list of email addresses to search for any non-HFS individuals. You subsequently sent me the following:

“Deputy Administrator and Chief of Staff Stephanie Carlton - Stephanie.Carlton@cms.hhs.gov
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services Former Director and Deputy Administrator for the Drew Snyder - Drew.Snyder@cms.hhs.gov
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services Interim Acting Director Caprice Knapp - Caprice.Knapp@cms.hhs.gov
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services Deputy Director - anne.costello@cms.hhs.gov
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services Deputy Director Sara Vitolo - Sara.Vitolo@cms.hhs.gov”

HFS had the Department of Innovation and Technology perform the email search, however, there were no emails relevant to your request. The Department is providing you with one email that is tangentially related to your request.

You have the right to submit a request for review by the Public Access Counselor (the “PAC”) in the Office of the Illinois Attorney General to:

Public Access Counselor
Office of the Attorney General
500 South 2nd Street
Springfield, Illinois 62706
Fax: 217-782-1396
E-mail: public.access@ilag.gov

If you choose to submit a request for review to the PAC, you must do so within 60 days after the date of this letter. Your request for review must be in writing, signed by you, and include a copy of your FOIA request and this response. 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). You also have the right to seek judicial review of this response. See 5 ILCS 140/11(a),(b).

Sincerely,

//s//

Kiran Mehta
Freedom of Information Officer
Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services



HFS

Illinois Department of
Healthcare and Family Services

JB Pritzker, Governor
Elizabeth M. Whitehorn, Director

401 S. Clinton St., Chicago, Illinois 60607
Telephone: +1 312-793-4792, TTY: +1 800-526-5812



July 28, 2025

Dr. Mehmet Oz
Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Oz,

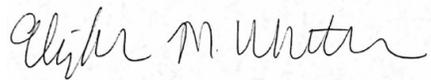
Last month, I was deeply concerned by [an Associated Press report](#) that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) was sharing Medicaid enrollees' data with deportation officials at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). On June 16, my staff reached out in writing and subsequently in meetings with staff from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to request confirmation and clarification. We were told these inquiries were elevated to CMS's leadership but have received no substantive response to date.

I was further troubled to learn that CMS has now entered into an agreement with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to share personal health data, including personal identity and location information, of Medicaid enrollees for the purpose of locating undocumented individuals, as recently [reported by the Associated Press](#). CMS has long promised the public that it is committed to protecting the integrity and privacy of its data, including by stating it will not be used for immigration enforcement purposes. Thousands of Illinois residents relied on these promises to lawfully seek critical healthcare without fear of deportation or other unrelated actions.

It has been over a month since my agency requested information on this topic. I write to renew our request for information about whether any Illinois Medicaid customers' data has been, is being, or will be shared by HHS with other agencies for purposes other than administration of the Medicaid program. Specifically, please confirm whether CMS has entered into an agreement with ICE to share data of Medicaid enrollees. If Illinois customers' data has been or will be shared with ICE or any other federal agency, I respectfully request that you identify which data was shared, with whom, and for what purpose.

Medicaid provides millions of Illinois residents with the care they need to lead fulfilling lives. Our partnership with CMS is essential to our ability to provide access to high quality health care. But what is even more foundational to our medical programs is the trust of our customers and providers. I call on CMS leadership to clearly and publicly communicate its plans to protect or disclose Medicaid enrollees' data. All residents seeking Medicaid coverage deserve to know who has access to their private health information and how it is being used.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth M. Whitehorn". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Elizabeth M. Whitehorn

Director

Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services