December 17, 2014

Honorable Marilyn Tavenner
Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Administrator Tavenner:

I have received your response to my letter in which I had requested additional clarity from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding home and community-based settings.

Sheltered workshops have provided services and resources to individuals and families for years. They provide assistance in developing work skills that help people move into employment across the state. We believe that sheltered workshops provide services that are vital to the individuals and families who depend on them and should remain part of Wisconsin’s robust efforts to help people with intellectual disabilities gain employment. We understand that it is an allowable choice for people to receive employment services in a sheltered workshop setting under Wisconsin’s approved waivers.

We have now reviewed the home and community-based non-residential settings guidance that CMS issued on December 15, 2014. Based on this new guidance, which continues to emphasize individual rights and choices, Wisconsin will continue to offer our most vulnerable residents a choice of settings for employment (both competitive and non-competitive) and day services. As CMS has indicated, the setting chosen by the person may depend on whether he/she requires services that are highly clinical or medical in nature or he/she has competitive employment goals.

Sincerely,

Kitty Rhoades
Secretary