

ST. LOUIS--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- Centene Corporation (NYSE: CNC) today announced that the State of Massachusetts has accepted its proposal to manage healthcare services for Aliens with Special Status (AWSS) through its subsidiary, CeltiCare Health Plan of Massachusetts (CeltiCare), effective October 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010.

This population has been enrolled in the Commonwealth Care insurance program (Commonwealth Care) run by the Massachusetts Health Connector. The State's budget constraints resulted in recent cutbacks in healthcare coverage for this population.

Michael F. Neidorff, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer for Centene, stated, "As our state partners continue to face budget challenges, Centene remains committed to providing innovative healthcare solutions that allow them to continue serving their beneficiaries. We recognized the economic challenges that forced Massachusetts to discontinue coverage for this population, and we were able to work with the provider community and government officials to develop an affordable alternative that will ensure these members maintain access to high-quality healthcare."

"We must maintain our commitment to the promise of health care reform in Massachusetts," said Governor Deval Patrick. "This innovative solution ensures hard-working individuals and families have access to the care they need."

CeltiCare began serving Commonwealth Care members on July 1, 2009, and currently serves members in the Boston, Central, Northern, and Southern regions of Massachusetts. CeltiCare will also provide services to Commonwealth Choice members starting January 1, 2010.

#### About Centene Corporation

Centene Corporation is a leading multi-line healthcare enterprise that provides programs and related services to individuals receiving benefits under Medicaid, including the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), as well as Aged, Blind, or Disabled (ABD), Foster Care, Long-Term Care and Medicare (Special Needs Plans). The Company operates local health plans and offers a wide range of health insurance solutions to individuals and the rising number of uninsured Americans. It also contracts with other healthcare and commercial organizations to provide specialty services including behavioral health, life and health management, managed vision, telehealth services, pharmacy benefits management and medication adherence. Information regarding Centene is available via the Internet at [www.centene.com](http://www.centene.com).

Source: Centene Corporation

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