

MDwise to pull out of Medicaid program in Ind.

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MDwise, an Indiana health insurer, has announced it will lay off about 80 employees because it is pulling out of an insurance program the state designed to care for some of its sickest and poorest residents.

The company made the decision to leave the Hoosier Care Connect program at the end of this month because of a dispute with the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration over payment, company officials said in a statement.

“FSSA would not provide the rates necessary for MDwise to continue participation in the program,” the statement read.

All of the approximately 39,000 people in the MDwise program will be transferred to one of the two other insurers who provide Hoosier Care Connect: Anthem and MHS. The Hoosier Care Connect program started in 2015 for Indiana to care for some of the most medically complex Medicaid clients. The program cares for about 94,560 Indiana residents who are blind, disabled and elderly and not eligible for Medicare.

In addition to providing traditional health care, Hoosier Connect is designed to offer programs to help with disease management as well as care coordination.

Since the program’s inception, members could choose from MDwise, Anthem or MHS as their health plans.

FSSA officials said in a statement they thought their rates were reasonable. “FSSA’s certified actuary has determined that the (rates paid by Hoosier Care Connect to Managed Care Entities such as MDwise to coordinate care) were adequate to appropriately serve members and to sustain the program,” the statement read.

After the reduction, MDwise will have a staff of about 400 employees.

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