



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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Commissioner

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February 7, 2020

Honorable Catherine Osten, Senate Chair, Appropriations  
Honorable Toni E. Walker, House Chair, Appropriations  
Honorable Paul M. Formica, Senate Ranking Member, Appropriations  
Honorable Gail Lavielle, House Ranking Member, Appropriations  
Honorable Marilyn Moore, Senate Chair, Human Services  
Honorable Catherine Abercrombie, House Chair, Human Services  
Honorable Jay Case, House Ranking Member, Human Services  
Honorable George S. Logan, Senate Ranking Member, Human Services

Appropriations Committee  
Human Services Committee

RE: Amendment to the 1915(c) Medicaid Waiver for Personal Care Assistance;  
Renewal of the 1915(b)-4 and Renewal of 1915(c) Waiver CT Home Care  
Programs for Elders

Dear Honorable Chairs and Ranking Members of the Appropriations and Human Services  
Committees:

In accordance with the provisions of §17b-8 of the Connecticut General Statutes, notice is hereby given that the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services (DSS) intends to amend the Personal Care Assistance (PCA) waiver and renew the Elder Waiver and the 1915(b)-4 Medicaid Waiver. The Department proposes to add Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS) and Home Delivered Meals (MOW) to the PCA waiver because these services are not currently available to individuals who opt for agency-based PCA services under the PCA waiver. These two services are currently available to persons who are self-directing their PCA Services under the 1915k state plan Community First Choice Option. By adding PERS and MOW to the PCA waiver, the services would be available to all individuals on the PCA waiver regardless of whether they choose to self-direct their PCA services or opt for agency-based PCA services. The Department will be requesting a retroactive effective date of 10/1/19 to add these services.

The only change proposed in the renewal of the Elder Waiver is to eliminate Support and Planning Coach as a Waiver Service. The Support and Planning Coach service is available under the state's 1915(k) Community First Choice program and is intended to assist persons in their efforts to self-direct their services. Retaining the service in this waiver would be duplicative. No waiver participants will lose any services or be impacted negatively as a result of this change.

Renewal of the 1915(b)-4 waiver allows us to continue to selectively contract for providers of care management services under the PCA and Elder waiver programs based on a competitive procurement.

Pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 17b-8, the Notice of Intent (NOI) for the above-referenced renewal was posted for public review and comment on the DSS website on January 2, 2020. The NOI was also posted for public review and comment in the CT Law Journal on December 31, 2019. Both notices were posted for 30 days. Attached is a copy of the NOI.

In addition to this letter and the NOI, a copy of the pertinent sections of the waiver amendment has also been included for your reference. Lastly, the Department would like to inform you that no comments were received in response to the NOI postings.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Deidre S. Gifford".

Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH  
Commissioner

cc: Kathleen Brennan, Deputy Commissioner, DSS  
Michael Gilbert, Deputy Commissioner, DSS  
Kate McEvoy, Esq., Medicaid Director, DSS  
Kathy Bruni, Community Options Unit Director, DSS  
Melanie Dillon, Staff Attorney, DSS  
Alvin Wilson, Counsel and Government Affairs Director, DSS



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

### **Notice of Intent to Amend the Personal Care Assistant Medicaid Waiver**

In accordance with the provisions of section 17b-8 of the Connecticut General Statutes, notice is hereby given that the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services (DSS) intends to amend the Personal Care Assistant (PCA) waiver and proposes to add two additional services.

DSS proposes to add Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS) and Home Delivered Meals (MOW) to the PCA waiver because these services are not currently available to individuals who opt for agency-based PCA services under the PCA waiver. These two services are currently available to persons who are self-directing their PCA Services under the 1915k state plan Community First Choice Option. By adding PERS and MOW to the PCA waiver, the services would be available to all individuals on the PCA waiver regardless of whether they choose to self-direct their PCA services or opt for agency-based PCA services.

The Department will be requesting a retroactive effective date of 10/1/19 to add these services.

A complete text of the waiver amendment is available, at no cost, upon request to the Community Options Unit, Department of Social Services, 55 Farmington Ave., Hartford, Connecticut 06106; email [shirlee.stoute@ct.gov](mailto:shirlee.stoute@ct.gov).

All written comments, questions, and concerns regarding these amendments may be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice to the Department of Social Services, Community Options Unit, 55 Farmington Ave, Hartford or to [Kathy.a.bruni@ct.gov](mailto:Kathy.a.bruni@ct.gov).



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

## **Notice of Intent to Renew the CT Home Care Program for Elders Medicaid Waiver and the 1915(b)-4 Selective Contracting Program**

In accordance with the provisions of section 17b-8 of the Connecticut General Statutes, notice is hereby given that the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services intends to renew the CT Home Care Program for Elders Medicaid Waiver and the 1915(b)-4 Selective Contracting Program effective 7/1/20. The 1915(b)-4 allows the state to select providers of care management under DSS' Medicaid waiver programs based on a competitive procurement.

The only change proposed in this renewal is to eliminate Support and Planning Coach as a Waiver Service. The Support and Planning Coach service is available under the state's 1915(k) Community First Choice program and is intended to assist persons in their efforts to self direct their services. Retaining the service in this waiver would be duplicative. No waiver participants will lose any services or be impacted negatively as a result of this change.

A complete text of the waiver amendment is available, at no cost, upon request to the Community Options Unit, Department of Social Services, 55 Farmington Ave., Hartford, Connecticut 06106; email [shirlee.stoute@ct.gov](mailto:shirlee.stoute@ct.gov).

All written comments, questions, and concerns regarding these amendments may be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice to the Department of Social Services, Community Options Unit, 55 Farmington Ave, Hartford or to [Kathy.a.bruni@ct.gov](mailto:Kathy.a.bruni@ct.gov).