



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Andrea Barton-Reeves
DSS Commissioner

Ned Lamont
Governor

Department of Social Services Department of Developmental Services

Jordan A. Scheff
DDS Commissioner

TO: Honorable Catherine Osten, Senate Co-Chair, Appropriations
Honorable Toni E. Walker, House Co-Chair, Appropriations
Honorable Joan Hartley, Senate Vice-Chair, Appropriations
Honorable Tammy Exum, House Vice-Chair, Appropriations
Honorable Corey Paris, House Vice-Chair, Appropriations
Honorable Eric Berthel, Senate Ranking Member, Appropriations
Honorable Tammy Nuccio, House Ranking Member, Appropriations

Honorable Matthew Lesser, Senate Co-Chair, Human Services
Honorable Jillian Gilchrest, House Co-Chair, Human Services
Honorable Herron Gaston, Senate Vice-Chair, Human Services
Honorable Lucy Dathan, House Vice-Chair, Human Services
Honorable Lisa Seminara, Senate Ranking Member, Human Services
Honorable Jay Case, House Ranking Member, Human Services

DATE: July 14, 2023

RE: **Amendments to the Comprehensive Supports Medicaid Waiver, Individual and Family Support Medicaid Waiver, and Employment and Day Supports Medicaid Waiver**

Dear Honorable Co-Chairs, Vice Chairs and Ranking Members of the Appropriations and Human Services Committees:

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" or the "Department") intends to submit various amendments to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services ("CMS") related to the following 1915(c) home and community-based services waivers operated by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS):

- Comprehensive Supports Medicaid waiver
- Individual and Family Support Medicaid waiver
- Employment and Day Supports Medicaid waiver

The intent of these amendments is to transfer the temporary authority of already approved Appendix K provisions, which expire in November 2023, to the permanent authorities under the aforementioned Medicaid waivers. All provisions were previously approved by the Connecticut General Assembly and CMS.

Appendix K provisions are temporary and expire in November 2023, six months following the expiration of the federal public health emergency related to the continued consequences of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

The provisions must be amended into the permanent Medicaid Waivers to ensure the ability to execute section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) throughout the ARPA period until March 2025.

A summary of the provisions includes the following:

- 1) Stabilization payments for qualified provider types;
- 2) Payments for qualified provider types to modernize billing processes and systems;
- 3) Incentive-based outcome payments to any qualified day provider covered under the specific waivers that submits a transition plan that is approved by DDS;
- 4) Incentive-based outcome payments to any qualified residential or day provider covered under the specific waivers that transitions a waiver participant from a congregate residential setting toward a more integrated community-based setting or a waiver participant from a congregate day setting toward a more community-based employment setting, as identified in the approved transition plan;
- 5) Incentive-based outcome payments to any qualified residential or day provider covered under the specific waivers that completes one of the objectives listed in the application, as part of the approved transition plan to the satisfaction of the Department;
- 6) An incentive payment for any DDS qualified provider that completes the National Core Indicator IDD State of the Workforce Survey;
- 7) An incentive payment for any DDS qualified provider for each job coach or job developer that completes training expectations consistent with professional standards from accepted accreditation or certification entities such as the Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE), Association of Community Rehabilitation Educators (ACRE), or other similarly recognized organizations;
- 8) An incentive payment for any DDS qualified provider that has one or more of their staff complete training certification expectations consistent with Technology First SHIFT LLC, Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA) Assistive Technology professional, or other similarly recognized organizations that focus on utilization of assistive technology;
- 9) Temporary enhanced rate/rate increases for specific employment and residential waiver service authorizations covered under the specific waivers.

Pursuant to C.G.S. §17b-8, a Notice of Intent (NOI) for public review and comment on the various amendments in the three DDS Medicaid waivers was posted on both departments' websites and published in the Connecticut Law Journal, beginning June 13, 2023, for a period of 30 days.

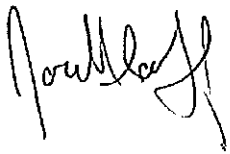
In addition to this letter, attached for your review is a copy of the NOI and the three DDS Medicaid waivers. There were no public comments received in response to the NOI.

Thank you for your review and consideration.

Sincerely,



Andrea Barton Reeves, DSS Commissioner



Jordan A. Scheff, DDS Commissioner

cc:

Elisa Velardo, Deputy Commissioner, DDS

Krista Ostaszewski, Health Management Administrator, DDS

Kevin Bronson, Director of Legislation, Regulations and Communications, DDS

William Halsey, Deputy Medicaid Director, DSS

Amy Dumont, Community Options, DSS