

1915(c) Home and Community Based Services Waivers

1. Comprehensive Waiver for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

No additional amendments since reported in the August 2019 Montana Health Coalition meeting.

2. Big Sky Waiver (BSW) for the Elderly and Adults with Physical Disabilities

Approval Date: 09/04/2020

Effective Date: 10/01/2020

End Date: 12/31/2022

- a. The BSW amendment approved on September 4, 2020, reinstated the Independence Advisor (IA) service. In March 2018, the current provider of the IA withdrew as a provider of this service. Since no other providers were willing to provide IA services, DPHHS chose to activate state staff, Regional Program Officers (RPO), to perform IA services. Due to the state staff not meeting the qualified provider requirements as specified in Appendix C, the state transitioned these services to an administrative activity.

A BSW provider has agreed to provide IA services to members participating in the Big Sky Bonanza (BSB) self-directed option. This provider will be trained over the next several months to become prepared to deliver IA services without any disruption to BSB members. The state does not anticipate any negative impact to participants by transitioning the IA services from state staff (RPOs) as an administrative activity to a BSW provider.

Approval Date: unknown

Effective Date: 01/27/2021

End Date: 12/31/2022

- b. Another proposed BSW Waiver amendment went out for public comment and tribal consultation through November 5, 2020, for an effective date of January 27, 2021. The amendment increases the daily rate for assisted living, specialized assisted living for individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and group homes that serve elderly and disabled members:
- Residential Habilitation - Assisted Living Facilities and Adult Foster Homes will increase to \$104.00 maximum per day from \$78.80 maximum rate per day.
 - Residential Habilitation - TBI/Adult Residential will increase to \$165.77 per day from \$109.78 per day.
 - Residential Habilitation - Elderly Disabled Group Home will increase to \$206.58 per day from \$158.91 per day.

The BSW amendment effective January 27, 2021, also adds a new service to address the needs of residents exhibiting adverse behaviors, or in need of enhanced memory care. The name and requested rate for this new service are: Residential Habilitation – Assisted Living Facilities and Adult Foster Homes- Behavior Management, reimbursed at \$141.00 per day.

3. Severe Disabling Mental Illness (SDMI) Waiver for Adults

Approval Date: 06/25/2020

Effective Date: 07/01/2020

End Date: 06/30/2025

The SDMI Waiver renewal was approved in June of 2020 for five additional years. With this renewal specialty mental health services were added that included Behavioral Intervention Assistant, Intensive Mental Health Group Home, and Mental Health Group Home.

A proposed SDMI Waiver amendment went out for public comment and tribal consultation in November, for an effective date of January 27, 2021. The amendment will raise the rate of Assisted Living and Foster Care to \$104.00 per day, add the self-directed Behavioral Intervention Assistance service at a rate of \$6.24 per 15-minute unit, and add the self-directed Life Coach service at a rate of \$9.86 per 15-minute unit.