



Date: April 28, 2023

To: Montana Health Coalition and Interested Parties

From: Mike Randol, Medicaid and Health Services Executive Director/State Medicaid Director

Subject: **Montana Medicaid 1915(c) Home and Community Based Severe Disabling and Mental Illness Amendment Effective October 1, 2023 – Comments accepted through May 30, 2023**

We are sending this memo to invite comment from the Montana Health Coalition regarding the upcoming amendment to the 1915(c) Home and Community Based Severe Disabling and Mental Illness (SDMI) Waiver. The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) will submit the SDMI amendment for Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approval on or before July 1, 2023, for an effective date of October 1, 2023.

The SDMI Waiver offered several flexibilities during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) through the Appendix K authority. This amendment to the base waiver proposes to make selected Appendix K provisions permanent. The changes are as follows:

- Adds a self-direct service option to Behavioral Intervention Assistant and Life Coach.
- Adds Financial Management Services and Individual Directed Goods and Services (IDGS) to increase self-directed provider options.
- Adds conflict-free case management criteria to the base waiver to ensure there is no conflict between AWARE, Inc., case management and AWARE, Inc., SDMI waiver services. AWARE, Inc., is the SDMI Waiver's contractor who provides case management services.

In addition to making these flexibilities permanent, DPHHS is updating the SDMI Waiver's case management team requirements to align with the requirements in the approved AWARE, Inc., contract.

The draft SDMI Waiver amendment is available for review at [Severe Disabling Mental Illness SDMI Home and Community Based HCBS Waiver Program \(mt.gov\)](#). The state, upon request, will make hard copies available.

Your questions and comments can be submitted during the public comment period, **from May 1, 2023 through May 30, 2023**, addressed to: Mary Eve Kulawik, Medicaid State Plan Amendment and Waiver Coordinator, at (406) 444-2584 or mkulawik@mt.gov; or Director's Office, PO Box 4210, Helena, MT 59604-4210.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the Medicaid program.