



Department of Public Health and Human Services

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Steve Bullock, Governor

Richard H. Opper,
Director

Date: August 11, 2016

To: Home and Community Based Waiver Members, Providers, and Stakeholders

From: Mary E. Dalton, Medicaid State Director *Mary*

Subject: Children's Autism Waiver Renewal

This memo is to inform you that on or before September 30, 2016, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) will submit the 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services Children's Autism Waiver (CAW) Waiver renewal for approval to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Effective January 1, 2017, the 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services Children's Autism Waiver (CAW) Waiver renewal proposes to phase out currently enrolled children. The Developmental Disabilities Program (DDP) will not enroll any new applicants into the CAW.

The CAW is designed to provide early intervention based upon Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) training models to children age 15 months through 7 years of age to reduce or eliminate serious life-long disability. Services in this waiver are provided for three years or when the child turns eight years of age, whichever comes first. The CAW serves approximately 60 children per year. Seven agencies across the state provide program design and training, case management services, and other supports to enrolled children and their families.

DDP is currently working with CMS to finalize and approve a new Autism Treatment Services State Plan to provide services to those who meet the State Plan's eligibility criteria. Eligible children receiving Program Design and Monitoring through the CAW will transition to the Treatment Plan service component of the State Plan. Eligible children receiving Children's Autism Training through the CAW will transition to the State Plan's Implementation Guidance or Implementation Guidance and Intensive Treatment service components.

The projected total annual fiscal impact of the CAW renewal is \$802,903 for 2017, \$661,020 for 2018, and \$253,716 for 2019. These estimates will be lower after the Autism Treatment Services State Plan is approved and implemented. The currently approved CAW Waiver may be reviewed at: <http://dphhs.mt.gov/dsd/developmentaldisabilities/DDPmedicaidwaivers>.

Additional proposed changes for the renewal are:

- Over waiver years 1, 2, and 3, the unduplicated number of participants, the maximum number of participants served at any point during the year, and the base number of participants in the phase-out schedule will be reduced based on the projected completion of services.

- Language regarding eligibility, Eligibility and Diagnostic providers, referrals for autism waiver services, waiting list, selection process and initial level of care review conducted by Mountain Pacific Quality Health Foundation will be removed or reworded to indicate a former function of the CAW.
- Extended State Plan services of Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Speech Therapy will be removed.
- Language will be added to indicate that Respite, Adaptive Equipment/Environmental Modifications, and Individual Goods and Services are ancillary services and that the sum of all ancillary service costs may not exceed \$4,000 annually.
- Language will be added to indicate that Waiver Children's Case Management Services (WCCM) will be capped at \$6,000 annually.
- Language will be added pertaining to the Home and Community-Based (HCB) Setting Waiver Transition Plan.
 - The state presumes family home settings that are integrated in typical community neighborhoods where people who do not receive HCB services also reside are compliant with the federal settings requirements.
 - All settings where services are delivered must be identified in the Individualized Family Service Plan and monitored by the state for compliance with the federal settings requirements.
- References to the Administrative Rules of Montana will be updated.
- The following language will be updated: 1) Client or Recipient to Member, 2) Mental Retardation to Intellectual Disability, 3) Waiver Specialist and DDP Child and Family Liaison to Medicaid Program Officer, and 4) DDP Program Director to DDP Bureau Chief

A public meeting will be held to discuss the CAW renewal, phase-out schedule, and changes on August 23, 2016 from 2:00-4:00 at the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Room 111, 1520 E 6th Ave, Helena, Montana. Individuals who need assistance to participate during this meeting should call (406) 444-2695. The public meeting can be accessed via WebEx at the following link: <https://hhsmt.webex.com/hhsmt>.

The draft CAW renewal application will be available for review on August 12, 2016, at: <http://dphhs.mt.gov/dsd/developmentaldisabilities>. The state, upon request, will make available hard copies of the CAW renewal.

We invite your comments and questions postmarked **by September 12, 2016**. You may direct comments to Carla Rime, Medicaid Program Officer, (406) 444-6047 or CRime2@mt.gov; or Developmental Disabilities Program, PO Box 4210, Helena, MT 59604.