

For publication on Wednesday, August 3, 2016

The U.S. Department of Public Health and Human Services' Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published regulations in the Federal Register (42.CFR 441.301(c)(4)-(6)) on 1/16/14, effective 3/17/14, and changed the definition of Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) settings for section 1915(c) Medicaid Waivers and approved state plans providing HCBS under section 1915(i).

These rules require states to develop and submit a transition plan identifying how their HCBS waivers and 1915 (i) state plans providing HCBS services will come into full compliance with these regulations. The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) has previously provided three opportunities for public comment on Montana's HCBS Transition Plan, Provider Self-Assessment and Member Survey Tools and the Validation tool and process for HCBS setting compliance.

CMS has reviewed the HCBS Statewide Transition Plan submitted by Montana and has asked for additional details and clarifications on the process for meeting compliance with these regulations before they can approve our Statewide Transition Plan.

Montana has modified the previously published HCBS Transition Plan to provide more comprehensive details and specificity in Montana's process for compliance with these regulations related to HCBS settings. We are now seeking public input on the modifications that have been made to the revised Statewide Transition Plan.

This public notice and the revised HCBS Statewide Transition Plan and other related information for submitting comments are posted on the DPHHS web site at: <http://dphhs.mt.gov/hcbs>. The state, upon request, will make available hard copies of the revised Statewide Transition Plan.

The Department of Public Health and Human Services is committed to a rigorous and transparent public process. We want Montanans to have an opportunity to review the revised Statewide Transition Plan, understand the concepts, and offer your comments.

Comments and other input on this proposed Validation Tool and revised statewide transition plan should be submitted **by 5 pm on 9/2/16**, by phone at (406) 444-2584; email at MKulawik@mt.gov with Validation Tool in the subject line; or via mail to: Mary Eve Kulawik, DPHHS, 111 N. Sanders St., Room 301, PO Box 4210, Helena, MT 59604.