



Department of Public Health and Human Services

Addictive & Mental Disorders Division ♦ PO Box 202905 / 100 North Park Avenue, Suite 300

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**Steve Bullock,
Governor**

Sheila Hogan, Director

MEMO

DATE: October 13, 2020
TO: Waiver Stakeholders
FROM: Melissa Higgins, Bureau Chief
Department of Public Health and Human Services
RE: Behavioral Intervention Assistant (BIA) Services

The Addictive and Mental Disorders Division (AMDD) has received multiple inquiries, concerns, and feedback about the new BIA service since the implementation on July 1st, 2020. Due to requests for clarification about the new service we have scheduled a training later this month, information about the training is provided at the bottom of this memo. In the interim we will do our best to provide additional information and address questions and issues as needed through this transition.

- **BIA Provider Qualifications**

BIA services may be provided by an agency or entities license and insured to deliver personal care services. AMDD is encouraging providers to embrace this new service, which can provide care takers with an opportunity to learn behavioral health skills through training to successfully work with SDMI Waiver members.

- **BIA and Self-Directed Services**

Based on overwhelming feedback from the provider community, AMDD is currently working with CMS about the possibility of implementing self-direct services within the BIA service. Until this issue is resolved;

- self-directed services may be provided and billed through Personal Attendant Services (PAS).

- **BIA and Other Services**

- BIA services may not be provided in conjunction with Community First Choice (CFC) and Personal Assistant Services (PAS).
- Member's will receive a notice if they are discontinuing CFC and moving to the BIA service.

- **BIA Transition of Services**

Members who were receiving one of the discontinued services (Specially Trained Attendant, Homemaker, and Habilitation Aide) will need to be assessed to determine the appropriate service under the waiver renewal.

- **BIA and PAS Provider Requirements**

BIA

- (1) Be at least 18 years of age;
 - (2) Within 30 days of hire receive training in:
 - * abuse reporting,
 - * incident reporting,
 - * client confidentiality, and
 - * any specialty training relating to the need of the member served, as outlined in the plan of care.
 - (3) Possess the ability to complete documentation requirements of the program;
 - (4) Agree to a state criminal background check;
 - (5) Possess a valid driver's license and proof of automobile liability insurance if transporting the member;
 - (6) Advocate for the member to assure that the member's rights are protected, and the member's needs and preferences are honored; and
 - (7) Complete 8 hours of Mental Health Training annually.
- Additional training designated by the Addictive and Mental Disorders Division for specialty behavioral interventions.

PAS

- (1) Be at least 18 years of age;
- (2) Within 30 days of hire receive training in:
 - *abuse reporting,
 - *incident reporting,
 - *client confidentiality, and
 - *any specialty training relating to the need of the member served, as outlined in the plan of care.
- (3) Possess the ability to complete documentation requirements of the program;
- (4) Agree to a state criminal background check;
- (5) Possess a valid driver's license and proof of automobile liability insurance if transporting the member;
- (6) Advocate for the member to assure that the member's rights are protected, and the member's needs and preferences are honored.

Training has been scheduled for Thursday, October 29, 2020 from 10:00am - 12:00pm. The training will cover the following service topics:

- BIA
- PAS
- Life Coach
- Transportation

Invitation to the training was distributed by email on September 24, 2020. If you are interested in attending the training but did not receive an invitation, please contact Helena Breidenbach, Quality Assurance Program Manager at Helena.Breidenbach@mt.gov

Questions?

We encourage providers to reach out to us with any questions or concerns at CDallas2@mt.gov. Questions will be responded to promptly.