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**Montana Medicaid Severe Disabling and Mental Illness (SDMI) Waiver Amendment
Effective January 27, 2021**

The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) is pleased to invite public comment regarding upcoming Home and Community Based 1915(c) Montana Medicaid Severe Disabling and Mental Illness (SDMI) Waiver amendment, that DPHHS will be submitting for Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approval on or before December 31, 2020. The effective date of the amendment is January 27, 2021.

After the implementation of the SDMI Waiver renewal effective July 1, 2020, DPHHS received stakeholder feedback requesting a self-direct option for the service of Behavioral Intervention Assistant. DPHHS has reviewed this request and determined that adding a self-direct option with a corresponding rate for Behavioral Intervention Assistant will allow an additional service delivery option for Montanans statewide, particularly in frontier and rural areas. Upon review, DPHHS also determined it would be appropriate to add the option for self-direction and a corresponding rate to Life Coach services. This ensures equality of service options for individuals in agency-based services and self-directed services.

DPHHS has determined that Assisted Living Facility and Adult Foster Homes daily rate increases are required to address and remedy identified barriers to access and quality service delivery for Montanans across the state. The congregate care services identified are necessary to serve the high needs of Montana Medicaid residents in the least costly setting.

The SDMI Residential Habilitation - Assisted Living Facilities and Adult Foster Homes rate will increase to \$104.00 per day from a \$80.24 maximum rate per day.

In addition, DPHHS has reviewed the waiver and will address issues identified in service definitions and limits, provider qualifications, projections, and overall consistency of waiver language.

The draft SDMI Waiver Amendment is available for review on November 13, 2020 at <https://dphhs.mt.gov/amdd/mentalhealthservices/severedisablingmentalillness-sdmi-homeandcommunitybased-hcbs-waiverprogram> and <https://dphhs.mt.gov/montanahealthcareprograms/medicaidstateplanamendmentpublicnotices>.

The state, upon request, will make available hard copies of the waiver amendment. Questions and comments can be submitted **from November 13 through December 12, 2020**, 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.