

Brent D. Sherard, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.P., Director and State Health Officer

Governor Dave Freudenthal

April 5, 2010

Ref: 10-114-CN

Dear Providers:

In the fall 2009, the Developmental Disabilities Division (Division) announced we were making significant changes to the Adult Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver, Child DD Waiver, and Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Waiver. The changes were being made to achieve specific outcomes for participants and families, including the option to self-direct services, adding services that may better meet participants' needs, and removing the "aging out" situation. The changes included beginning a new Support Options Waiver and Comprehensive Waiver and ending the Child DD Waiver and the Adult DD Waiver effective July 1, 2010. These changes were contingent upon approval of the new waivers by Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) by early spring so the Division could successfully implement the new waivers by July 1, 2010.

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services has informed the Division that the Support Options Waiver and Comprehensive Waiver will not receive approval within the required timeframe for the Division to implement these changes effectively and with the least amount of impact on participants, families, and providers. Therefore, the Division has made the decision to incorporate many of the proposed changes in renewing the current Child DD Waiver and amending the current Adult DD and Acquired Brain Injury Waivers, effective July 1, 2010. The Division will not move forward with the Support Options Waiver or the Comprehensive Waiver at this time.

Here is a summary of what will stay the same: how this change will impact participants, family members, or guardians that you may work for and how it may impact you and the services you provide.

- The renewed Child DD and amended Adult DD and ABI Waivers will offer all the same services currently in the waiver. The Child DD Waiver will offer new services designed to better meet participants and families' needs, including Supported Living, Supported Employment and Companion Services for participants 18 through 20 years of age and Child Habilitation Services.
- The Adult DD and ABI Waivers will also offer new services designed to better meet participants and families' needs, including Companion Services and Homemaker. If you are interested in adding any of these new services to your certification, please contact your local Provider Support Specialist (formerly the Survey/Certification Specialist).
- The Child DD Waiver will include the option to self-direct Support Services, including Respite, Personal Care, Child Habilitation Services and Supported Living, Supported Employment and Companion Services for participants 18 through 20 years of age.
- The Adult DD and ABI Waivers will include the option to self-direct Support Services, including Respite, Personal Care, Companion Services, Supported Living, and Supported Employment.
- For the Fiscal Year 2011, the Individually Budgeted Amount will be determined by the historical annual plan units, multiplied by the posted service rates, minus one time costs.

Developmental Disabilities Division

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- Respite services for the Child DD, Adult DD and ABI Waivers cannot be provided during regular school hours or when parents are working (School hours may vary by school district).
- Respite services for the Child DD, Adult DD and ABI Waivers will have a 2500 unit cap.
- For Child DD, Adult DD and ABI Waivers, home-based workers will only be able to provide services if they are working under one of the Financial Management Systems; Agency with Choice or Public Partnerships, LLC. Division staff will be contacting parents/guardians if they have providers on the plan of care that are considered home-based workers. A home-based worker is a certified provider who provides waiver services in the participant's/guardian's home and under the participant's/guardian's direction.

In addition, the Adult DD and ABI Waivers will include these new services:

- Companion Services
- Independent Support Broker (Self-Direction only)
- Agency with Choice (Self-Direction only)
- Option of self-directing Respite, Personal Care, Residential Habilitation Training, Companion Services, Supported Living, or Supported Employment
- Individual Directed Goods and Services (Self-direction with budget authority only)
- Unpaid Caregiver Training and Education (Self-direction with budget authority only)

The Child DD Waiver will include these new services:

- Child Habilitation (to be used as a more appropriate service to families during work hours rather than respite)
- Companion Services (available to those 18-20 years of age and may be used in place of services previously provided as personal care or respite)
- Supported Living (for participants 18-20 years of age that want to live on their own with some supports)
- Supported Employment (available to those 18-20 years of age)
- Independent Support Broker (Self-Direction only)
- Agency with Choice (Self-Direction only)
- Option of self-directing Respite, Personal Care, Residential Habilitation Training, Children's Habilitation Service, Companion Services, Supported Living, or Supported Employment
- Individual Directed Goods and Services (Self-direction with budget authority only)
- Unpaid Caregiver Training and Education (Self-direction with budget authority only)

All of the changes listed above still allow the Division to accomplish many of the outcomes we were trying to achieve by adding the Support Options and the Comprehensive Waivers, including new services, adding self-direction, and addressing the home-based worker issues. Children turning 21 years of age will still need to apply for services on the Adult DD or ABI waiver. However, the Division remains committed to funding those individuals.

The Division has scheduled two informational webinars to give further information concerning the changes mentioned in this letter and answer questions you may have. There is no cost to attend. Please join us for one of the following dates and times for the provider webinar training:

April 26, 2010 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

To reserve your seat for this session, please register at:

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/801799915>

OR

April 27, 2010 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

To reserve your seat for this session, please register at:

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/488967994>

The webinar shows the presentation on your computer screen, but you must also call in to 877-278-8686, PIN number 252484, in order to hear the audio. If you do not pre-register for the webinar, you will not be able to access the training.

If you are interested in receiving more information on self-directing services, Public Partnerships, LLC will be in Wyoming during the month of May to enroll participants who want to self-direct and use the Fiscal/Employee Financial Management Service. The dates, times and locations are still being determined and you will be notified by mail as soon as they are scheduled.

We hope that you will join us for the informational webinars to learn more about the renewal of the Child DD Waiver and the amendments to the Adult DD and ABI waivers. If you would like to contact the Division regarding the changes, please contact our Cheyenne office at (800) 510-0280 or one of the Division staff members listed below.

| Name | Phone | E-mail |
|---|----------------|--|
| Beverly Swistowicz, Participant Support Manager | (307) 777-3321 | beverly.swistowicz@health.wyo.gov |
| Terry Walling, Training Manager | (307) 777-6775 | terry.walling@health.wyo.gov |
| Denise Murphy, Provider Support Specialist | (307) 472-2950 | denise.murphy@health.wyo.gov |

Sincerely,

Chris Newman, Administrator
Developmental Disabilities Division
Wyoming Department of Health