



Department
of Health

Office of
Mental Health

Office of Addiction
Services and Supports

Office of Children
and Family Services

Office for People With
Developmental Disabilities

State Discussion with Children's Waiver HCBS Providers

September 2022

Purpose

- To have an open dialogue between the State and HCBS providers to communicate issues and concerns.
- HCBS providers to have the ability to discuss barriers and be a part of the problem-solving discussion.
- The State to have the ability to share upcoming changes, guidance, information, and to obtain feedback directly from the HCBS providers.



Agenda

- ✓ Amendment Update
- ✓ eFMAP Updates
- ✓ HCBS Manual
- ✓ Capacity Tracker Updates Coming
- ✓ HCBS referral process
- ✓ Building Provider Capacity
- ✓ Feedback: Supports HCBS Providers Need (policy/guidance, training, other requests, etc.)
- ✓ Future Meetings & Contact Information



1915(c) Waiver Amendment Planning



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New Waiver Amendment

DOH has developed a new Children's Waiver Amendment. During the development of the Children's Waiver Renewal, DOH solicited stakeholder feedback regarding the Waiver. Additionally, DOH has been working with various stakeholder groups regarding several children's services, some of which contributed to the Waiver Amendment.

Timeline:

- Public Notice posted September 28, 2022
 - Submission to CMS October 28, 2022
 - Approval expectation March 1, 2023
- A number of policies and webinars will be announced in the upcoming months



Children's Waiver Amendment

Below is a summary of the planned updates for an upcoming Amendment. The State's goal is to address stakeholder feedback and suggestions to address children/youth identified needs and access to services.

New Service or Adjustment to Service

- Lead Health Homes to manage oversight for Vehicle/Environmental Modifications for FFS members instead of the Local Department of Social Services
- Add **Goods and Services** – limited funding dollars for HCBS members to meet goals within their POC
- Add **Transition Care Coordination** (HCBS provider) to assist institutional children/youth to return home
 - **Transitional Service** – limited funding dollars to be utilized to address barriers for child/youth to return to home/community
- Rural Rate development
- Add to **Respite Services** a medical component with an additional rate tier with nurse qualifications and medical necessity criteria



Additional Children's Waiver Amendment Items

Additions, Removals, and Updates

- Palliative Care Suit of Services –
 - Change required qualification to remove the years of experience with MF population
 - Remove life threatening by age 21
 - Updated language for consistency (i.e.; chronic condition, terminal illness, life threatening illness) with definition
- Group Respite change needed due to lack of consistency with other group rates
- Planned Respite limit needed to meet Final Rule
- Language for rates to change without an amendment
- SPOAs to be able to conduct HCBS eligibility determination for children/youth coming out of Hospitalization/Institution

➤ *Combining Vocational and Employment services – more research and information needed therefore not in this Amendment*



eFMAP Updates

eFMAP Children's Activities – Timeline Update

Workforce and IT Infrastructure

- Attestations and further information will be forthcoming for these activities.

The table below is an **Approximate Timeline** for IT Infrastructure and Workforce funding. *Please note this timeline has shifted since we first shared the information.* DOH will continue to keep stakeholders up to date with any changes to this timeline.

Date	Action
Sept/Oct 2022	Attestations sent to providers
October 2022	Providers should return completed Attestations to DOH
Oct/Nov 2022	DOH sends letters notifying providers of award amounts they will be receiving from MMCPs or State
Oct/Nov 2022	DOH sends payment schedule notification to MMCPs
Nov/Dec 2022	Award Amounts disbursed to providers



eFMAP Children's Activities – Attestation Update

- Providers delivering HCBS, CFTSS, or 29-I services between April 1, 2021, and December 31, 2021, are eligible to receive a minimum of \$75,000 for Workforce and/or Infrastructure investments.
 - Eligible providers must use these funds to develop and implement programs and strategies that assist in workforce capacity building and/or agency infrastructure, as described in the approved ARPA Spending Plan – eligible funding activities are detailed in the Attestation.
 - The Attestation will indicate how much and via what method providers will be receiving fundings should they choose to accept the funds.
 - If choosing to receive funding, providers are required to complete the Attestation and accompanying letter with their information and signature, indicating they understand the terms and conditions of the funding.
 - Terms and conditions are specific to reporting requirements
- **To receive these funds, interested providers must submit this signed attestation form to DOH by the due date.**



HCBS Manual



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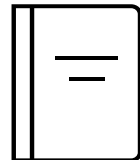
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HCBS Manual

- Currently, the HCBS and CFTSS billing manual is sperate documents from the specific CFTSS and HCBS program documents
- Based upon provider and MMCP feedback, DOH is currently restructuring the HCBS Manuals
- The HCBS manual will have all program information and related billing information together, so information is in one place.
 - The CFTSS Manual will also include all billing and programmatic information in one manual.
- Aiming to issue this update in October/November, which will also include relevant programmatic updates.



Capacity Tracker Update



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Capacity Tracker Update

- Continued updates are occurring to assist providers to track availability and waitlist of services.
- Additional alerts have been added:
 - When more than one provider shares a child/youth on their waitlist
 - When one of those providers takes the child/youth off their waitlist and why
- New items to come:
 - Adding whether the child/youth has the K-code for eligibility
 - Additional search and filter options

What other options or feedback would you like to share?

- *Please remember to continually communicate with the child's/youth's care manager regarding the status of the referral for services and if there is a need for a change or if you were alert to other providers availability.*



HCBS Referral Process

HCBS Referral Process

DOH is beginning discussions to develop an electronic HCBS referral form and process within the Capacity Tracker.

Benefits:

- No more passing of paper and ability to see things in real time
- Providers ability to communicate with CMs regarding the status of the child/youth referred
- Connection to the waitlist so HHCM/C-YES can see provider availability
- Providers able to share frequency, scope, duration electronically with CMs

Potential Barriers:

- Providers will need to develop a process to be responsive timely to referrals
- Providers will need to update status of children/youth referred (waitlisted, accepted, enrolled)
- All CMs and C-YES would need access to the Capacity Tracker



Building the HCBS Referral Process

Stakeholder involvement in the process

Two provider workgroups to be developed:

1. Referral Design and Development within the system
 - To assist with the referral process design
 - Review, test, and give feedback as the process is developed
2. Referral Information Required
 - Review and update the current form to be placed in the electronic platform
 - Outlining the minimum information needed to be able to accept a referral
 - Development of process and associated timeline

Health Homes and C-YES will also have a workgroup and information will be shared among the groups, or the groups at some point will work together.

Let us know your interest and within which workgroup by emailing BH.Transition@health.ny.gov



Building Provider Capacity



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HCBS Waitlist and Service Evaluation

- While some providers are providing multiple services to children/youth with, at times, large units (i.e., annual, day, dollar amounts), there are a number of HCBS-eligible and enrolled children/youth who are on a waitlist for all, or most, services needed/requested.
- HCBS providers are encouraged to evaluate the services currently being delivered to children/youth and review the needs of children/youth who are placed on a waitlist to determine whether any adjustments are necessary to serve the waitlisted children/youth.
- HCBS providers and HH/C-YES should be regularly communicating regarding the needs of currently served children/youth and those on a waitlist, at *minimum* bi-monthly.



Provider Feedback: Regional Meetings

DOH is working with RPCs who already hold regional forums and stakeholder collaboration

Meetings targeted to be held in-person if location with ample space can be secured

- The State will be hosting meetings by region to discuss:
 - Service Delivery
 - Capacity Building
 - Waitlist Needs
 - Waiver Enhancements for Future Amendments
- All providers, Health Homes, and Managed Care Plans will be invited to attend – please let DOH know if your organization has a space that can be used to host these meetings.
- An announcement regarding these sessions will be forthcoming including dates, times, and agenda.



Palliative Care

- DOH has drafted a plan for building provider capacity regarding Palliative Care providers.
 - Outreach to current HCBS providers and other community providers/organizations
 - Changes to qualifications to encourage a variety of provider types will be part of an upcoming Waiver Amendment
- Currently there are only 4 designated providers of HCBS Palliative Care services, serving across 7 sites, with 143 children/youth receiving at least one service.
 - Currently designated providers are located in NYC, Bronx, Nyack, New Hyde Park, and Buffalo
- DOH is leading a palliative care workgroup to build provider capacity, address and remove as many barriers as possible, and make any needed changes to ensure that the process to designation is seamless as possible.
 - Any providers interested in joining this group should reach out to bh.transition@health.ny.gov



HCBS Provider Feedback



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HCBS Provider Feedback

- Please provide feedback on the supports that are needed (policy/guidance, training, other requests, etc.).
- Feedback can be provided verbally or in the chat.
- If other ideas and feedback come to your mind after this meeting, please reach out to us at the BH.Transition@health.ny.gov mailbox or (518) 473-5569.



Future Meetings & Contact Information



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Future Meetings & Agenda

- Next Scheduled Monthly Meetings:

- November 16th, 2022 from 1-2:30pm
- December 21st, 2022 from 1-2:30pm

Future HCBS Monthly Meetings
may be impacted by Regional
Meetings once scheduled

- **Register for all these monthly meetings here:**

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/6285227798939622667>



- DOH would like to discuss topics of interest to the HCBS providers and also hear suggestions and ideas for improvement.
- Please submit your agenda requests, suggestions, or questions to BH.Transition@health.ny.gov.



All Children's Waiver HCBS questions and concerns, should be directed to the NYS Department of Health at BH.Transition@health.ny.gov mailbox or (518) 473-5569

Questions regarding the HCBS Settings Final Rule can be directed to ChildrensWaiverHCBSFinalRule@health.ny.gov



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