



# DIRECT CONNECTION

*Current news from the Missouri Division of  
Developmental Disabilities to keep you informed*

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## **MISSION ACCOMPLISHED**

### **CMS Assurance: Level of Care**

Participants enrolled in the Home & Community Based Waiver must meet the same Level of Care criteria as someone residing in an institution. In other words, the criterion has to be the same as if Medicaid was paying a state institution. This assurance also helps establish the Division of DD waitlist. The participant can be evaluated for the HCBW and IF funding isn't available the person goes on a waitlist.

The service coordinator is responsible for assessing and reassessing an individual to determine the Level of Care appropriate for the person before they begin receiving services and reassessing for any changes in the status of the participant of waiver services as well as the annual review of the Level of Care assessment. Although in MO the SC of contracted TCM Provider may do the assessment/reassessment, the Regional Office must sign off on the Level of Care assessment.

This article concludes the CMS Assurances that will be reviewed by the Consumer Relations Unit. I hope these articles have helped everyone to understand the assurances as well as the responsibility of the TCM Provider in helping Division of DD in meeting these assurances.

### **Stakeholder Meetings**

Public meetings to solicit feedback on the division's service system were held in St. Louis and Kansas City on August 3 and 4. Robin Cooper, from the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disability Services, facilitated the discussions, which included over 75 participants representing County DD boards and provider organizations, self-advocates, family members and advocates. During the discussions, Ms. Cooper clarified federal mandates compared to policy issues that a state may decide. A formal report detailing the stakeholder comments will soon be available. The division will continue to solicit input from stakeholder groups in coming months to assist in the development of the comprehensive and community waiver reapplications, which will be submitted by the Department of Social Services to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services later this year as the 5 year approval period for both waivers ends in June, 2011.

Stakeholders are encouraged to become educated about national best practices and to understand the technical aspects of waiver development. Resources are located at these websites:

The Clearing House for Home and Community Based Services: A comprehensive resource repository including best practices. <http://www.hcbs.org/>

General information about Medicaid home and community-based waivers; federal requirements, general information, state by state information:

[http://www.cms.gov/medicaidstwaivprogdemoppi/05\\_hcbswaivers-section1915\(c\).asp](http://www.cms.gov/medicaidstwaivprogdemoppi/05_hcbswaivers-section1915(c).asp)

1915(c) Waiver application, frequently asked questions, other information:

<https://www.hcbswaivers.net/CMS/faces/portal.jsp>

The National Association of Directors of Developmental Disability Services' website has a wide range of tools and resources. Some are available at no cost, and some may be purchased. For a complete listing of NASDDDS publications, go to this website:

[http://www.nasddds.org/Publications/special\\_pubs.shtml#caring](http://www.nasddds.org/Publications/special_pubs.shtml#caring)

## ***IN FULL SWING***

### **Listening Tours**

Bernie Simons, Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities, and Roger Garlich, Division Liaison for Community Services, are meeting with Senate Bill 40 County Boards across the state for a series of "listening tours." As inter-governmental partners, the Division and SB 40 boards provide joint planning/funding of services and supports. The "listening tours" will be conducted over the late summer and early fall with the Kansas City region already concluded last week.

## ***IN DEVELOPMENT***

### **Health Care Reform Act**

The Health Care Reform Act (Affordable Care Act) is being actively reviewed by a cabinet level team from Governor Nixon's office. The Department of Mental Health also has a number of workgroups looking at the potential impact of this legislation on persons served by the Department. Below is an update on recent actions taken by various state agencies as Missouri moves forward to be prepared for the opportunities afforded by this federal legislation.

## REPORT ON ACA ACTIVITIES

### I. Grant Opportunities

#### **Grants Awarded: (2 – Total \$2,500,096)**

- Missouri has been awarded \$1,500,096 for the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Programs (DHSS)
- Health Insurance Premium Review – Cycle 1 (DIFP) \$1,000,000 Award Date: 8/03/2010

#### **Grant Applications submitted and pending (8 submitted – Total \$ 10,945,087):**

- Work Force Expansion/Training
  1. State Health Care Workforce Development Grant (DHSS/DED) \$150,000 Award Date: 9/30/2010
- Prevention and Wellness/Public Health
  2. Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens and Women (DHSS) \$1,994,991 Award Date: 9/01/2010
  3. Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Programs (DHSS) \$1,500,096 Award Date: 7/28/2010
- Delivery System Reform
  4. Prevention and Public Health Fund: Strengthening Public Health Infrastructure for Improved Health Outcomes (DHSS) \$2,700,000 Award Date: 9/30/2010
- Medicaid Payments
  5. Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration – Extension of the grant through 2016 with an additional four years (2020) to spend monies awarded in 2016. (DSS/MHD/DMH/DHSS) Extension will be renewed annually. No new funds to Missouri.
- Long Term Care
  6. Nationwide Program for National and State Background Checks on Direct Patient Access Employees of Long-Term Care Facilities and Providers (DHSS) \$3,000,000 Award Date: 9/30/2010
  7. ADRC Nursing Home Transition and Diversion Programs (MHD) \$1,200,000 Award Date: 9/30/2010
  8. Outreach and Assistance for Low-Income Programs, Medicare Improvement for Patients and Provider Act (MIPPA) Collaborative Grants (DHSS/DIFP) \$400,000 Award Date: 9/30/2010

**Grant applications in process (6 to be submitted – Total \$3,895,660):**

- Insurance Reform
  1. Health Insurance Consumer Assistance Offices and Ombudsmen (DIFP) \$600,000
- Insurance Exchange
  2. State Planning and Establishment Grants for the Affordable Care Act's Exchanges (DIFP) \$1,000,000 Date Awarded: 9/30/2010
- Prevention and Wellness/Public Health
  3. Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (DHSS) \$305,000 Date Awarded: 9/30/2010
  4. Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) Act (DHSS) \$991,673 Date Awarded: 9/30/2010
  5. Restoration of Abstinence Education Funding Grants (DHSS) \$934,278 Date Awarded: 9/30/2010
  6. State Supplemental Funding for Healthy Communities, Tobacco Prevention and Control, Diabetes Prevention and Control, and Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Systems (DHSS) \$64,709 Date Awarded" 9/30/2010

**Grants Not Submitted: (2)**

- Multi-Payer Advanced Primary Care Practice Demonstration Project – Not processed due to lack of infrastructure for multi-payer collaboration in Missouri.
- HIV/AIDS Surveillance: Enhanced Laboratory Testing (DHSS)

**II. Actions designed to strengthen the current health insurance marketplace that become operational in 2010.**

- The federally funded high risk insurance pool for people with pre-existing conditions is now operational. Missouri will receive \$81,000,000 in federal funds to subsidize the operation of this program. Missourians may apply for coverage through the state's Missouri Health Insurance Pool (high risk pool) [www.mhip.org](http://www.mhip.org).
- MCHCP has applied to participate in the federal reinsurance pool for Employers Providing Health Benefits to Early Retirees (MCHCP) Estimated annual funding: \$2,000,000 to \$2,600,000
- Tax credits to small employers. According to a study by The Lewin Group, 85,100 small businesses in Missouri are eligible for the tax credit. Of that number, 25,100 are eligible for the full tax credit of 35% of employee premium costs.

# ***BRIGHT IDEAS***

## **Opportunity to Train Potential Employees cost-free**

Governor Nixon recently launched a new program to help businesses train potential employees. Businesses can post training orders through WorkReadyMissouri and select potential trainees referred by their local Career Center.

Businesses pay nothing—not even Workers’ Compensation. Participants in this program are Unemployment Insurance recipients. Trainees are pre-screened qualified and can receive up to 6 weeks/144 hours of training at your business. Businesses have the opportunity to interview the potential trainees before placing them in their business. If for some reason the individual does not work out, the business has the option to terminate the trainee and get matched with another trainee. To participate in the WorkReadyMissouri program, register online at [www.workready.mo.gov](http://www.workready.mo.gov). For more information about the program, contact Joyce Hahn at (573) 751-9571 or [joyce.hahn@ded.mo.gov](mailto:joyce.hahn@ded.mo.gov).

The WorkReadyMissouri program provides an opportunity to train individuals for a career as a direct support worker. Agencies approved as Missouri College of Direct Support (MoCDS) Training sites can offer the 160 hour MoCDS program to the WorkReadyMissouri trainee. Trainees completing the program will receive the Missouri College of Direct Support Trainee Certificate of Completion.

For additional information, please contact Jackie Coleman at [Jackie.coleman@dmh.mo.gov](mailto:Jackie.coleman@dmh.mo.gov) or 573-751-5768.