



November 5, 2014

New Home and Community Based Services Rule Stakeholder Input Sought

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a new Federal rule to ensure individuals receiving Home and Community-Based Services have full access to the benefits of community living and are offered services in the most integrated settings. As part of the Affordable Care Act, the rule is designed to improve the quality of services for individuals receiving Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS).

The rule defines and describes the requirements for where HCBS can be delivered (both where people live and where they receive services during the day) and adds new person-centered planning requirements. Louisiana must evaluate where services are currently being delivered (settings) in its waivers and Medicaid State plan programs. If there are settings that do not meet the new home and community-based settings requirements, the Department of Health and Hospitals will have to develop a plan – with input from the public – to bring their programs into compliance. The state will have up to five years to transition any setting not in compliance with the new rule.

The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) has developed a plan to evaluate HCBS settings within the New Opportunities Waiver, Children's Choice Waiver, Supports Waiver, and Residential Options Waiver, to assure that the requirements of the rule are being met and to allow the public an opportunity to provide input on the transition plan. The plan can be reviewed and comments can be submitted [here](#).

OCDD will be hosting a meeting about these regulations and the State's transition plan on Monday, November 17, 2014 from 1 pm-3 pm at the Department of Health and Hospitals in Baton Rouge. Since space will be limited, this meeting will be a live broadcast online. On the day of the meeting, access the online live broadcast [here](#).

The Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS) and the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) have also developed plans to ensure its HCBS are delivered in places that meet the new requirements and to solicit public input. Review the OAAS plan and submit comments [here](#). Review the OBH plan and submit comments [here](#).