



Family Forums on Changes to Employment Services for People with DD

March 7, 2018

In March of 2014, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a new Federal rule to ensure individuals receiving Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) have full access to the benefits of community living and are offered services in the most integrated settings. The rule defines and describes the requirements for where waiver services can be delivered (both where people live and where they receive services during the day) and adds new person-centered planning requirements.

In a recent letter to waiver participants, Julie Hagan, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD), put it this way, "The goal of the HCBS settings rule is to make sure that you have the opportunity to work and spend time with people in your community, including those who do not have disabilities. The new rule applies to all of the places where you spend your day, such as day programs and/or sheltered workshops and include where you live, such as if you receive Direct Care services that are paid for by Medicaid."

Ms. Hagan goes on to say this doesn't mean that a participant's services will end or that facility-based day programs or sheltered workshops will close down... "But it does mean that some of the settings where day services are provided must make some changes in order to keep receiving federal Medicaid waiver funds. For instance, if your day service does change, it will be done using a person-centered planning process where you decide the things you want to do during the day in your community, including working in real jobs with real wages, and building meaningful relationships with other people."

All states were required to evaluate where services are currently being delivered (settings) in its waivers and Medicaid State plan programs and, if needed, develop a plan to meet the new waiver requirements. "Beginning in late 2015, every HCBS provider of residential and non-residential (vocational) services also known as the facility based day programs or sheltered workshops, were required to conduct a self-assessment of their current way of providing services," Ms. Hagan said. Since then, the State has reviewed the provider self-assessments, conducted onsite visits with some residential providers and every day habilitation, prevocational, and group employment provider, and identified those providers not in compliance with the new Rule. Those providers "were asked to complete a transition plan detailing the steps and timeframe for bringing their programs into compliance with the rule." Louisiana has until March 17, 2020, to ensure that requirements of the settings rule are met.

OCDD will host Family Forums in each region across the state to let individuals with developmental disabilities and their families know what changes to expect from their waiver provider. Please see the forums' schedule below.

Families can also stay informed during the transition process by going to the [OCDD Home and Community-Based Services Setting Transition Plan webpage](#).

Monroe, Tuesday, April 3, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Families Helping Families of Northeast LA, 5200 Northeast Road

Bossier City, Thursday, April 5, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Willis Knighton Bossier Hospital Women's Center, 2400 Hospital Drive

Covington, Monday, April 9, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

North Shore Pastoral Center, 4465 Hwy 190 East Service Rd

Baton Rouge, Tuesday, April 10, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Capital Area Human Services, 4615 Government St., Building 2, Room 200

Pineville, Wednesday, April 18, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Main Street Community Center, 708 Main St.

Lake Charles, Tuesday, April 24, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Imperial Calcasieu Human Services, One Lakeshore Drive, 12th Floor Conference Room

Lafayette, Thursday, April 26, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Acadiana Area Human Services, 302 Dulles Drive, Auditorium 4

Gray, Tuesday, May 1, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Terrebonne Parish North Branch Library, 4130 West Park Ave.

Metairie, Monday, May 7, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

East Bank Regional Library/Napoleon Room, 4747 W. Napoleon Ave

New Orleans, Wednesday, May 9, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

New Orleans East Library, 5641 Read Blvd

Harvey, Thursday, May 10, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Jane O'Brien Chatelain West Bank Regional Library Meeting Room, 2751 Manhattan Blvd.

Contact Us

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If there are any questions about the information above, contact the Council by replying to this email, or calling the toll free number listed below:

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