



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

Developmental Disabilities Administration

Bernard Simons, Executive Director

To: Community Pathways Waiver Participants
New Directions Waiver Participants

From: Bernard Simons, Executive Director, DDA
Susan Tucker, Executive Director, OHS

Date: April 18, 2014

Re: Renewal of the Community Pathways and New Directions Waivers

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information about the renewal of the Community Pathways and New Directions Waiver programs operated by the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA). The two programs are Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers and require renewal by the Federal government, through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), every five years. Maryland submitted a renewal application that was approved March 26, 2014 with an effective start date of July 1, 2013. While the effective date is July 2013, the transition of participants to the renewed waiver and alignment of Individual Plans to include any new service options will occur over the course of 18 months from the waiver approval date during annual meetings or sooner as determined by the participant and their team. Additional guidance will be shared by the DDA.

The renewal merges the two waivers in order to provide participants greater opportunity to self-direct certain services and simplify administration. The merger will provide administrative efficiencies for participants and the State. In addition, the merger will help to streamline access to services, update and standardize service descriptions and provider qualifications, and enhance quality and oversight activities.

In addition to the existing services, the renewal will include three new services and the expansion of one service for self-directing participants. The list of available services includes:

- Assistive Technology and Adaptive Equipment;
- Behavioral Supports;
- Community Learning Services;
- Community Residential Habilitation;
- Day Habilitation – Traditional;

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- Employment Discovery and Customization;
- Environmental Accessibility Adaptations;
- Environmental Assessment;
- Family and Individual Support Services;
- Live-In Caregiver Rent;
- Medical Day Care;
- Personal Supports/Community Supported Living Arrangement;
- Respite;
- Shared Living;
- Support Brokerage;
- Supported Employment;
- Transition Services;
- Transportation; and,
- Vehicle Modifications.

The State transitioned Resource Coordination services to a Medicaid Targeted Case Management (TCM) State Plan service for all participants eligible for Medicaid and receiving services through the DDA. This transition permits all Medicaid beneficiaries who are eligible to receive funding from DDA to receive TCM services. Specifically, TCM will be provided to those Medicaid beneficiaries who are: 1) on the DDA waiting list for the waiver; 2) receiving comprehensive community services funded by the DDA; or 3) in the process of transitioning to the community.

Attached is a chart for each service category that outlines the changes in the renewal application and provides an explanation.

To access the full waiver application, please visit the DDA website at www.dda.dhmdh.maryland.gov. A designated email address has been established to submit questions. It can be accessed at Communitypathways@maryland.gov. Responses to frequently asked questions will be addressed on DDA's website and in planned events (webinars and face-to-face sessions) which will be scheduled and announced.