

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 42 C.F.R. §441.301(c)(6)(iii), the Georgia Department of Community Health is required to give public notice related to the State's plan to comply with new regulation governing the settings in which the delivery of services to Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services waiver recipients may be provided.

Home and Community-Based Waiver Services Settings Transition Planning for the Independent Care Waiver Program

In accordance with and related to new Home and Community-Based Services Settings regulations found at 42 C.F.R. §441.301(c)(4)-(5) requiring transition planning per 42 C.F.R. §441.301(c)(6), the State must submit a plan detailing actions to achieve compliance with the setting requirements. A 30-day public notice and comment period are required for the proposed transition plan. The transition plan is required in conjunction with any waiver amendment or renewal submitted following the implementation of the new regulation which became effective March 17, 2014.

The purpose of this public notice is to make waiver recipients and other interested parties aware of the new regulations that will govern changes in how services are provided. The intent of the new regulations is to optimize member access to the benefits of community living and maximize opportunities for members to receive services in the most integrated setting. Implementation is intended to enhance the quality of waiver services and provide protections and support to participants through person-centered planning and exercise of choice, conflict free and independent evaluation standards, and services provided in the most integrated setting. The State is required to develop a transition plan to demonstrate how it will comply with the new regulations. The state is seeking feedback on the proposed plan to ensure it is responsive to stakeholder needs.

The transition plan does not impact Medicaid eligibility, benefits, services, or rates.

This public notice and transition plan is available for review at each county Division of Family and Children Services office and at <http://dch.georgia.gov/public-notice>. A copy of the transition plan is available with the public notice. Each transition plan, and ultimately a statewide comprehensive transition plan, will be developed with stakeholder input to include public comment through multiple modes. The schedule for transition planning activities and other related information for participating in and submitting comment is posted on the Department's website at <http://dch.georgia.gov/waivers>. Initial and ongoing comment may be submitted to the designated e-mail address: HCBSTransition@dch.ga.gov

In addition to the schedule of other comment submission options, an opportunity for public comment will be held on **August 27, 2014, 10:30 a.m.**, at the Department of Community Health (2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303) in the 5th Floor Board Room. Individuals who are disabled and need assistance to participate during this meeting should call (404) 656-4479. Citizens wishing to comment in writing on any of the proposed changes should do so before **September 8, 2014**, to The Department of Community Health, Attn: HCBS Transition – 36th Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30303 or by fax to 404-651-6880.

Comments submitted will be available for review by the public at the Department of Community Health, Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., in Room 4074, 2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THIS 8th DAY OF AUGUST, 2014

Clyde L. Reese, III, Esq., Commissioner