

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 42 C.F.R. § 447.205, the Georgia Department of Community Health is required to give public notice of any significant proposed change in its methods and standards for setting payment rates for services.

NEW OPTIONS WAIVER (NOW) AND COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT WAIVER (COMP) EXCEPTIONAL RATE REQUESTS

Effective for dates of services on and after July 1, 2008, the Department is proposing to utilize a formalized process whereby additional and/or more intensive resources can be accessed in order to serve individuals in transition from an institution or who may be at risk of institutionalization.

This change impacts the New Options Waiver (NOW) and the Comprehensive Support Waiver (COMP) and will formally raise the waiver caps for Exceptional Rates by \$6,000 above the current individual annual cost limit of \$25,000 for NOW for a period of no more than 12 months. The current individual annual cost limit for COMP will remain at 130% of the average cost of an ICF/MR facility. Total costs under COMP, to include Exceptional Rate requests, will not exceed 130% of the average cost of an ICF/MR facility. Any approval of an exceptional rate is time limited up to a maximum of one year.

This change is contingent on approval of a federal waiver amendment by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The federal waiver amendment is estimated to be budget neutral.

This public notice is available for review at each county Department of Family and Children Services office. An opportunity for public comment will be held on **June 23, 2008**, at 1 p.m., at the Department of Community Health 2 Peachtree Street, N.W., 5th Floor Board Room, Atlanta, Georgia 30303. 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 on or before **June 27, 2008**, to the Board of Community Health, Post Office Box 38406, Atlanta, Georgia 30334.

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.

Comments from written and public testimony will be provided to the Board of Community Health prior to the **July 10, 2008**, Board meeting. The Board will vote on the proposed changes at the Board meeting to be held at 10:30 a.m. at the Department of Community Health (2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303) in the 5th Floor Board Room.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THIS 12th DAY OF JUNE, 2008
Rhonda M. Medows, M.D., Commissioner