



DCH Team,

We've ushered in the first quarter of state fiscal year 2025 (FY25), and July has been full of many accomplishments. It includes news that the New Options Waiver (NOW) and Comprehensive Supports (COMP) waiver amendments were recently approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), which means important Medicaid rate increases for providers that serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This collaborative effort with the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities is a significant win for the state of Georgia – rate increases will empower providers to enhance quality of services, recruit and retain skilled staff, and ultimately improve the quality of life for those DBHDD and DCH serve.



I also applaud the tremendous efforts by the DCH Office of Analytics and Program Improvement in preparing the new agency data warehouse solution, EASE, for CMS certification this month. CMS's on-site visit is part of a strict validation process necessary to launch the tool. EASE, which stands for Enterprise Analytics Solution for Everyone, is the first of its kind, and I want to thank Daphanie Keit and the entire OAPI team for leading this project that will streamline processes and generate rich, on-demand data.

Earlier in the month, I had the opportunity to attend the Georgia Hospital Association's Summer Conference to discuss agency updates related to Certificate of Need, directed payment programs and more. The conference was also a chance to discuss the launch of the new statutory Comprehensive Health Coverage Commission being led by GHA President & CEO and former DCH Commissioner Caylee Noggle. The work of this commission is important, and I look forward to observing the commission's engagement in progress in the coming months.

In August, I will be traveling with other DCH team members to the Georgia Association of Community Care Providers' Summer Meeting. Attendees at this conference represent healthcare providers who actively participate in the Medicaid Independent Care Waiver Program, Community Care Services Program, and NOW and COMP waiver programs, among others. I look forward to addressing this key audience of home-and community-based service providers and joining the MAP team for its session providing waiver updates.

In the weeks ahead, we will hold two board meetings in August while also working on the FY25 amended budget and FY26 budget, legislation, additional directed payment program ideas, and other major projects. Remember that each of you plays a valuable role within this organization, and I applaud you for your commitment and impact. We could not do this work without you.

Sincerely,