

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.

Department of Community Health, Medical Assistance Plans, Waiver Amendments: New Options Waiver Program (NOW) and Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP)

Pending Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval and effective for services provided on or after March 1, 2019 and subject to payment at Fee-for-Service rates, the Department of Community Health (Department) proposes to modify and add services to the New Options Waiver (NOW) Program and Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP).

This change is estimated to increase NOW and COMP Program expenditures for SFY 2019 and SFY 2020 as follows:

SFY 2019				
Service	Proposed Rate	State Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
Behavior Support Services – Level I	\$18.75 / 15-minute unit (no rate change)	\$397,817	\$839,177	\$1,236,994
Behavior Support Services – Level II	\$23.56 / 15-minute unit (no rate change)	\$367,578	\$775,388	\$1,142,966
Interpreter Services	\$19.38 / 15-minute unit	\$124,353	\$262,317	\$386,670
Transition Services and Supports	\$1 = 1 unit Lifetime Maximum \$20,000	\$103,727	\$218,808	\$322,535
Transition Community Integration Services	\$1 = 1 unit Lifetime Maximum \$2,500	\$15,544	\$32,789	\$48,333
Respite – 15-Minute Unit Out-of-Home	\$4.83 / 15-minute unit (no change)	No impact on projected cost		
Total Projected Expenditures		\$1,009,019	\$2,128,479	\$3,137,498

SFY 2020				
Service	Proposed Rate	State Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
Behavior Support Services – Level I	\$18.75 / 15-minute unit (no rate change)	\$1,393,526	\$2,878,474	\$4,272,000
Behavior Support Services – Level II	\$23.56 / 15-minute unit (no rate change)	\$1,287,590	\$2,659,652	\$3,947,242
Interpreter Services	\$19.38 / 15-minute unit	\$315,633	\$651,972	\$967,605
Transition Services and Supports	\$1 = 1 unit Lifetime Maximum \$20,000	\$378,392	\$781,608	\$1,160,000
Transition Community Integration Services	\$1 = 1 unit Lifetime Maximum \$2,500	\$47,299	\$97,701	\$145,000
Respite – 15-Minute Unit Out-of-Home	\$4.83 / 15-minute unit (no change)	No impact on projected cost		
Total Projected Expenditures		\$3,422,440	\$7,069,407	\$10,491,847

The proposed March 1, 2019 per diem rates, service changes, and new services proposed represent an overall increase of \$3,137,498 in SFY 2019 and \$10,491,847 in SFY 2020 to the two Medicaid Waiver Programs operationally administered by the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD). DBHDD provides the State Funds Match for NOW and COMP Waiver claims. Estimated State Match is represented in the table above but is fully assumed by DBHDD.

The Department of Community Health (DCH) is seeking to combine two current services: Behavioral Support Consultation and Behavioral Support Services. Behavioral Support Consultation and Behavioral Support Services will be renamed as one service category with two levels of professional credentialing. Each level authorizes specific practice functions to be delivered consistent with both professional licensing rules and generally-accepted standards of practice.

Behavior Support Services:

The DCH is seeking to combine two current services: Behavioral Support Consultation and Behavioral Support Services. Behavioral Support Consultation and Behavioral Support Services will be renamed as one service category with two levels representing differences in required professional credentialing. Each level authorizes specific practice functions to be delivered consistent with both professional licensing rules and generally-accepted standards of practice.

Additionally, DCH proposes to remove the current maximum number of units for this service and allow authorization to be determined based on individual assessed need.

Interpreter Services:

The addition of Interpreter Services to the NOW and COMP Waiver Programs allows DCH to provide language interpreting to individuals with significant hearing impairment or non-English speaking individuals. The service will facilitate assessment to assure accurate evaluation, eligibility determination, and development of a person-centered service plan. The service may also be used to assist in training direct support staff in communication basics to facilitate delivery of other waiver services. Interpreter Services is designed to be in full compliance with *Appendix B-8: Access to Services by Limited English Proficient Persons* found in the Medicaid Waiver application.

Transition Services:

Transition Services are designed for individuals moving directly from an institution into a community-based waiver program and are available for one year following transition from a hospital, an intermediate care or skilled nursing facility. The addition of Transition Services and Supports and Community Integration Services allows continued focus on services currently available through the Money Follows the Person demonstration program which is scheduled to end on December 31, 2019.

Out-of-Home Respite Service:

Respite – 15-Minute Unit Out-of-Home Service represents no change in rate or utilization. DCH proposes renaming the service to provide an additional Respite Service type available for short respite visits in an out-of-home setting such as a Community Living Arrangement or Host Home.

This public notice is available for review at each county Division of Family and Children Services office. An opportunity for public comment will be held on **January 16, 2019, 10:30 a.m.**, at the Department of Community Health, 2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303 in the 5th Floor DCH Board Room. Individuals who are disabled and need assistance to participate during this meeting should call (404) 656-4479. Individuals wishing to comment in writing on any of the proposed changes should do so on or before **February 12, 2019**, to the Board of Community Health, Post Office Box 1966, Atlanta, Georgia 30301-1966. You may also email comments to Danisha Williams, danwilliams@dch.ga.gov or fax to 404-651-6880.

Comments submitted will be available for review by submitting a request via email to Danisha Williams, danwilliams@dch.ga.gov. Comments from written and public testimony will be provided to the Board of Community Health prior to the **March 14, 2019** 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 10th DAY OF JANUARY, 2019

Frank W. Berry, Commissioner