

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 Program (NOW)

Effective July 1, 2014 and subject to waiver amendment approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Department is proposing to make the following changes to Medicaid reimbursement for specific services provided through the NOW Waiver Program:

1. Increase the current rates of the following services by 1.5%, an amount determined by the 2014 Georgia General Assembly:
 - a. Community Access Services (both Group and Individual)
 - b. Prevocational Services
 - c. Supported Employment Services (both Group and Individual)
 - d. Community Living Supports
 - e. Support Coordination
2. Establish rates for one new service:
 - a. Behavioral Supports Services which will provide additional support for individuals with challenging behaviors through onsite intervention and training for paraprofessional staff and family members. The proposed rate is \$18.75/unit following rates for similar services in other programs.
3. Remove Skilled Nursing Services from its current bundled rate methodology linked to the provision of community residential or home-based community living supports services. Skilled Nursing Services will be billed under the established nursing services rates under the waiver as a separate, stand-alone service.

These service changes are made for the purpose of enhancing the array of services available to individuals with intensive medical and/or behavioral needs and increasing transparency in service delivery and reimbursement. The rate increases for current services follow Legislative Action and approval by Governor Deal.

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 19, 2014**, at 10:00a.m., at the Department of Community Health (2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303) in the 5th Floor Board Room. This item will be one of several waiver public notices up for comment during that hearing. Each public notice will have its own segment of the hearing agenda. 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 26, 2014**, to the Board of Community Health, Post Office Box 1966, Atlanta, Georgia 30301.

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, 2014**, 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, 2014

Clyde L. Reese, III, Esq., Commissioner