

We have been anxiously awaiting the next steps in the finalization of the Waiver Redesign and the Rates Scheme. It is clear from the just completed Session of the General Assembly that the members need more detailed information and that there is some will to complete this process and provide the needed funding in the FY17-FY18 biennium (the GA Session in 2016!). DBHDS has just released the following:

*We [DBHDS] have delayed setting up this new round of [WDAC] committee meetings in order to maximize the dialogue from DBHDS/DMAS bi-weekly meetings with CMS. We are now embarking on the implementation phase of the My Life, My Community Medicaid Waiver Redesign.*

*The focus of the [WDAC] committee is evolving from review and evaluation of waiver service definitions and general processes to incorporate a broader review and advisory role with regard to larger scale waiver redesign elements including:*

- *transition to a new ID/DD waiver system,*
- *urgent needs consideration,*
- *slot triage,*
- *waiver slot allocation,*
- *waiting list management/movement among waivers,*
- *details of the waiver application, and*
- *assistance with the development of regulatory and policy manual language.*

*Smaller, more targeted stakeholder workgroups have been charged to:*

- *refine the service definitions and adding the detail that will eventually be incorporated into the General Assembly report and subsequent waiver application.*
- *oversee several smaller, service definition-focused workgroups on community engagement,*
- *review and advise on residential service models, and*
- *review waiver services for children.*

*The Provider Advisory Committee will continue its work on the rate models. The work resulting from these groups will be used to inform and drive the discussions with the WDAC.*

*Before final amendments are submitted by DMAS to CMS, there will be a public comment period. We recognize that representatives [to the WDAC] will discuss options and issues within their networks and we encourage this. We do, however, request that members embrace the vetting process and refrain from prematurely disseminating information to the larger community that is not based on fully vetted options.*

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