

Family and Caregiver Meeting

July 14, 2016

Minutes

Presenters: Rhonda Workman, Patricia Sastoque (Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration); Ashlea Lantz (Griffin Hammis Consultant); Michael Shriver and Jennifer Mettrick (CHANGE Inc.)

CMS Final Rule Presentation (Rhonda Workman and Patricia Sastoque)-

- The Final Rule comes from Medicaid's guidance on the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver.
- The HCBS waiver provides funding to Maryland's DDA to support services. Currently the HCBS waiver provides a 50% match to state general funds (for every dollar Maryland puts in, the HCBS puts in a dollar)
- Every state is required to submit a transition plan that outlines how they will comply with the rules associated with the HCBS waiver provided by the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid (CMS). Maryland submitted its transition plan in March 2015 and received feedback from CMS in November 2015. They are now working on additional updates to the plan in order to comply with CMS guidance.
- Provider organizations will need to meet all requirements of Maryland's plan in order to receive funding from DDA beginning in March 2019. Providers can try to secure additional private funding to cover any services that do not meet the requirements in Maryland's plan.
- DDA is encouraging providers to evaluate business practices to match individual wants for the future and quality of life. Standards are being created for providers to follow.
- The purpose of the HCBS Final Rule is to create full access for individuals with developmental disabilities to be integrated into the community, live a full life just as you and I. Be a part of the community, not just visiting.
- CMS allowed for stakeholder input before execution.

Federal guidelines for HCBS:

- Services cannot be provided in an institution/hospital/nursing facility
- Services cannot be in a setting that isolates people
- HBCS qualities: integrated in and support full access to the community, setting must support seeking employment in integrated settings, setting chosen by the person among other options, settings must protect rights of privacy and safe from bullying/abuse/restraints, the setting should increase freedom and personal choice, must have a person centered plan, supports choice in picking services
- No % or number of employment hours required by CMS.

CHANGE's goal is to make sure everyone at CHANGE has a meaningful day by finding out what is important to them, offering employment goals to those that desire employment and to provide

community integrated opportunities based on choice and person-centered planning. Personal choice will be provided by giving a menu of services for all individuals to choose from (i.e. ADL, employment, life skills, community enrichment). Quality vs. quantity is becoming the focus for outings at CHANGE, including community employment options.

Family Questions:

- *How responsive was the government to the people it will affect?* There were focus groups and forums to provide feedback by families, individuals and advocacy groups. The State of Maryland also held stakeholder meetings and town hall meetings to hear from families and other stakeholders.
- *Can rates support providers and individuals?* - State will not provide everything, natural supports, families, community resources also are needed to best serve individuals.
- *What type of support is needed to be engaged and a member of the community?* This will vary by individual. This is where person-centered planning will be very important.
- *Was there consideration of the wide continuum of individuals being served by provider organization?* The state is working on a tiered standards process that takes into account individual's needs, abilities and desires to seek employment and be integrated into the community.
- *How much community placement is required?* Take into consideration a range of abilities. CMS provided no percentage. Person Centered Plan, person driven and person directed, will dictate the %. Everyone should be at least offered employment first.
- *Why is the Moton location closing?* Moton is closing because of the County and their need for the space. Over the next 12 months, CHANGE is evaluating space options integrated in the community.
- *Why has the Vocation program at Moton only focused on employment and no longer provides any of the additional services that used to be offered to their individuals?* CHANGE recently realized that we have been focusing on getting out into the community as often as possible and providing as many employment opportunities as possible instead of providing employment as a choice based option for each individual. This was in part due to the interpretation of the Final Rule requiring 100% integration into the community. CHANGE will be evaluating its structure to work towards offering a greater array of choices for individuals through person-centered planning that offers employment options for those interested. This will take us some time to develop but we are building in the necessary strategies into our Strategic Plan this year.

Closing comments:

- Stayed tuned for more communications related to the CMS Final Rule, what it will mean for CHANGE and CHANGE's transition plans to enhance the quality of services offered through personal choice and to meet requirements set out by the Final Rule.
- We need everyone's e-mail! Please contact us with it.