

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services [DHHS]

Bureau of Developmental Services [BDS]

All Public Comments Received on New Hampshire Draft

In-Home Supports [I.H.S.] Waiver

IHS Waiver Public Comment Period: August 28, 2015 – September 28, 2015

September 16, 2015, 2pm Session:

- Please provide clarification around the roles of the family, versus the roles of Area Agencies/providers
- How can I find a service provider? Is there a central website or database for this (besides care.com?)
- Please provide clarification regarding the timelines for providers developing service plans.
- Increased paperwork is overwhelming, and is repetitive. How can the process be streamlined through multiple agencies?
- Comment to Clarify: How will coordination work with chronic mental illness under the waiver?
- Medicaid Lapse- happens with providers and different funds. Is there a way to transfer funds from different accounts?
- Which personal care items aren't covered? Is this under the state plan, or IHS?
- Comment- thank you everyone who does a superb job on this program
- AA from region 4- would like: not having background checks for respite workers, working within caps
- Comment to Clarify: will the background checks come out of family's budgets? This is the driver's license, criminal and DEA checks.
- I've been very proactive for my daughter, and therefore I've found PCAs. But how can I have more flexibility with funds, (because I don't use equipment), and more help find PCAs?
- What is families' role in respite? The language seems inconsistent in the waiver. Waive refers to one section, and offers different language in that section. Additionally, please provide clarity around the roles of families, AAs, PCAs.

September 16, 2015, 6pm Session:

- Is there more funding expected for the waiver? Is this amount capped for the number of individuals?
- Really enjoy the flexibility of the waiver- it helps my son get out into the community
- Is there a way to reduce the monthly required reports?
- How will this impact MCOs? How do long term care and support services fit into this?

Saravanan
<saravan01@yahoo.com>

Please respond to
Saravanan <saravan01@yahoo.com>

09/02/2015 02:59 PM

To "BDSQualityCouncil@dhhs.state.nh.us" <BDSQualityCouncil@dhhs.state.nh.us>

cc

bcc

Subject Public comments: Section 1915(c) In Home Supports Waiver

History:  This message has been replied to.

Hello

My child is on the in-home support waiver.

I have the following Concerns

1. Limit for Therapeutic recreation: the present limit and the proposed waiver limit of \$1200 for this service(page 43) completely ignores the reality. My child take a therapeutic horse riding course and adaptive swimming to help with the sensory needs which direly relates to his Service agreement goals.

The horse back riding lesson per session cost \$80.00 and the swimming lesson cost \$60.00/session. He gets one unit of each/week a total of \$140.00 per week, so the \$1200 only covers cost of 8.5 weeks, considering in a year we have 52 weeks, the limit proposed is too low and arbitrary, did not consider the reality. There must me some flexibility to allocate more funds to these services as long as they are directly related to the goals in the Service agreement. The important thing is, as the name states "Recreation" which is a essential part of children like my son, and it provides greater opportunity to get integrated in the community. So, there must be a reasonable balance between direct care services and the therapeutic recreational services. In the current limit I don't see that.

2. Prescribed Medications not covered by the Medicaid and insurance: My child has mitochondrial issues, and in order to improve this function, he is on a vitamin cocktail prescribed by his GI, he has prescribed a probiotic called VSL#3 which most private insurance covers. But my child's medicaid does not cover either of it. So there much be a provision to pay for these medically necessary highly important medical items that are not covered by the medicaid.

Thanks

Saravanan Janarthanam

"The difference between what we do, and what we are capable of doing, would solve most of the world's problems." -Mahatma Gandhi

Laura Cameron
<l_camy@yahoo.com>

Please respond to
Laura Cameron <l_camy@yahoo.com>

09/11/2015 12:35 PM

To "BDSQualityCouncil@dhhs.state.nh.us" <BDSQualityCouncil@dhhs.state.nh.us>
cc
bcc

Subject budget letter

History:  This message has been replied to.

1 attachment



budget letter.doc

Hello Maureen

Attached you will find my testimony for the upcoming budget hearing. How will emailed testimonies be presented?

Thank you

Laura Cameron

September 8, 2015

Members of the House,

Our boys, Sean and Adam, ages six and seven, who have intellectual disability, autism and other health impairments, were fortunate enough to be granted in home support waivers two years ago. We were delighted and excited, for, as much as we truly love our children, the day to day care was beginning to take its' toll on my husband and I. However, our excitement quickly turned to frustration and disappointment. We have had trouble finding and keeping care for our boys. In total, only ten months of the twenty four have been covered

The reason, I believe, is because qualified LNA's, CNA's and Family Managed Employees are finding jobs elsewhere due to NH's grossly outdated rate of pay model. The budget that Governor Maggie Hassan brought forward is so very important in so many ways. For those families fortunate enough to have found a qualified caregiver, their loved ones have, in turn, received consistency in care, safety and improved lives through goals achieved and quality of life. For families like mine, my children must become familiar with a new FME every time there is a change, instead of having that consistency in care, while I spend countless hours training them, only to have them leave in six months.

In order for those that are served by in home support waivers and nursing to lead productive lives, we must, as a state, provide those necessary and basic tools. A functional operational budget is the foundation for that. If a functional operational budget is not met, the individuals it serves, like Sean and Adam, will be left to stagnate. We were the first state to get rid of institutions. We were the first state to value the lives of those that were different from the norm that society imposed. We were the first state to recognize that change was needed and necessary. Please remember that as you vote. Please remember that, at any given moment, you could have a loved one in need of one on one and extended care like my Sean and Adam.

In the words of American author, Edward Everett Hale, "I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do.

Laura Cameron

"Karen Hatch "
<khatch@communitycrossroadsnh .
org>

09/28/2015 09:51 AM

To <BDSQualitycouncil@dhhs.state.nh.us>
cc <lorene.reagan@Dhhs.state.nh.us>
bcc
Subject In home support waiver - changes

Hi Lorene and BDS Quality Council,

I attended the In home support meeting on Sept 16 re: suggestions for helping to make the program better and am a parent as well as a service coordinator for families. Thank you for all the work you do to help make the IHS process better .

I am hoping to get an answer to the questions parents have put forth to be provided to BDS: They are appreciative that the IHS waiver is available to them to access to help their children with supports and services.

Recently, several people were notified that they were removed from the waitlist and can access IHSW funds:

1) Some families that were notified of this have declined the INSW funds as they were told that they could not have LNA services while receiving INSW funds. They were frustrated that they could not access IHSW funds if they have LNA services because they did not want to give up LNA services. Parents were confused as to why they would have to make a choice as the majority of the funds are supposed to go to Personal Care services – The families are being told that LNA services are the same as Personal care services and that is why they have to make the choice. PCA services are different than LNA services as PCA services can be provided in the community whereas LNA services are provided in the home and the parents are being told that LNA's can no longer go with them with their child into the community which leaves the child basically "institutionalized" in their own home. If the parents were able to utilize both – the INS waiver in conjunction with LNA services it would give the child the opportunity to practice skills in the community and basically be wrap around services which would enhance the child's abilities. The idea that you have to choose does not make sense to parents. –They wanted to know if there has been a rule change or is it an interpretation of the rule which requires families to make a choice between IHSW funds and LNA services. Could you please help me to relay any information you on this so families can be aware of their choices. Families do want BDS to know that having to make a choice between LNA services and receiving the in home support waiver is counter productive and not to the benefit of the family member that is receiving the supports and services.

Thanks!

Karen Hatch, Service Coordinator
8 Commerce Drive, Atkinson, NH 03811

Tel: 603.893.1299 ext 313 Fax: 603.893.5401

khatch@communitycrossroadsnh.org

Website: www.communitycrossroadsnh.org

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Elizabeth Eckley
<eeckley@gatewayscs.org>

09/28/2015 11:07 AM

To "BDSQualityCouncil@dhhs.state.nh.us" <BDSQualityCouncil@dhhs.state.nh.us>
cc
bcc
Subject IHS Waiver

To Whom it May Concern:

In reviewing the In-Home Supports regulations, it was noted that 524 does not include criteria for eligibility for IHS that would address individuals whom experience risk (ie Forensic) as the 525 does. It would be helpful for this information to be included.

Thank you,

Liz Eckley

In-Home Supports Service Coordinator

[Family Support](#)

GATEWAYS COMMUNITY SERVICES

144 Canal Street

Nashua, NH 03064

Phone: (603) 459-2737

Fax: (603) 889-5460

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