
Waiver Director's Report February 2021

1. **Autism/Behavioral Health:**

There are currently 1,321 actively enrolled in the Applied Behavioral Health Autism Benefit. Sixty individuals were approved for ABA services in January. Both initial and re-evaluation testing wait times have increased due to COVID 19 and decreased availability of providers.

Two of eighteen Autism provider sites visits have been completed for FY21, three more are scheduled in February. Each autism center will have a virtual site review which includes a review of clinical documentation, credentialing, and facility standards.

2. **Child's Waiver Program:**

There are currently 53 children open to the CWP with another two children who were invited to apply in early February although one child who was invited withdrew the request. All children on the waiting list have been invited to apply for the waiver and there are currently no children waiting for the CWP.

3. **Habilitation Supports Waiver:**

The LRE has 629 HSW waiver slots full. The LRE saw 10 disenrollment's in January and is enrolling 10 more individuals for February to maintain maximum slot capacity. The LRE and CMHSP HSW Leads meet regularly to maintain these slots and identify appropriate individuals for enrollment.

Under the 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services Waivers Appendix K, states can request relevant program changes and flexibilities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. CMS has approved BHDDA's temporary amendment through the Appendix K for all approved 1915(c) waivers (HSW, CWP, and SEDW). This amendment is effective 3/1/2020 through 2/28/2021. MDHHS waiver staff report applying for an Appendix K extension through October 2021. The LRE and CMHSP waiver staff are working to obtain documentation that was unable to be acquired during the COVID-19 emergency that may still be required by February 28th, 2021, if the extension of the Appendix K is not approved. MDHHS is in the process of determining a process to review cases where the documents were not turned in and when those individuals may go inactive in the Waiver Support Application (WSA).

MDHHS made significant changes to the WSA that went live January 19th, 2021. The CMHSP's and PIHP's are in the process of adjusting to the new system and how to submit annual documentation. MDHHS provided two trainings to PIHPs and CMHSPs on January 20 and 25.

4. **Home and Community-Based Services:**

Data clean-up is complete for the MDHHS HCBS Validation Project that is underway for the HCBS surveys that were completed between 2015 and 2017. Errors are occurring when TBD Solutions and MDHHS download the reports, causing unanticipated delays in moving forward with the project. MDHHS is expecting to have clean, finalized reports out to the PIHP's within the week with further project instruction.

Provisional approvals for new providers continue to be completed remotely. Currently the region is experiencing low volume and the process is running smoothly.

MDHHS and the PIHP's are working to develop a plan to move the sending of provisional surveys to the PIHP's, away from MDHHS. This should help the provisional survey process for new providers to run more efficiently and allow new providers to be surveyed at the 90-day mark as originally anticipated. There is not yet an anticipated date for this process to begin. MDHHS and the PIHP's want to develop a consistent plan and process for all PIHP's across the state to follow.

5. Serious Emotional Disturbance:

The LRE has 41 individuals enrolled in this waiver (Allegan – 2, HealthWest – 13, Network180 – 22, Ottawa – 2, and West Michigan – 2). Individuals continue to be enrolled and dis-enrolled as appropriate.

6. MDHHS Waiver Audit:

MDHHS concluded the HCBS Waivers and Substance Use Disorder site review of the LRE on November 30th, 2020. MDHHS provided the final site review reports to the LRE on December 15th, 2020 with corrective action plans due back to MDHHS on January 14th, 2021 which were submitted. MDHHS responded to the LRE's first POC on January 25th, 2021 and requested additional information by February 3rd, 2021. The LRE submitted the second POC response on February 3rd and was notified by MDHHS on February 8th that the POC for CWP was accepted but they required further information on the HSW and SEDW CAP's. This information was requested by and submitted on February 12th, 2021.

Once MDHHS approves the final CAP's, they will schedule a 90-day virtual follow-up review of the region.