
Waiver Director's Report November 2020

1. Autism/Behavioral Health:

There are currently 1316 individuals enrolled in the Applied Behavioral Health Autism Benefit. ABA providers have resumed services while taking precautions to keep everyone as safe as possible. Telemedicine services are utilized as appropriate and families are being provided choice in how they wish to receive services. The LRE, Beacon, CMHSP's and contracted ABA providers continue to meet regularly to provide services in compliance with MDHHS' service requirements.

The following drafted boilerplate language is included in the FY21 State Budget which may impact the way we provide and contract for services.

Sec. 960. Autism Services Cost Containment – REVISED Requires DHHS to continue to cover all autism services that were covered on January 1, 2019; to restrain costs required DHHS to develop written guidance for standardization; and permits DHHS to require 6-month consultation if costs are above a monthly threshold, limits practitioners who can perform a diagnostic evaluation; provide fidelity reviews and secondary approvals, and prohibit specific providers from providing both evaluation and treatment; requires a report. Revises to require 3-year reevaluations, unless a clinician recommended an earlier reevaluation, requires evaluations performed by a master's level practitioner to be reviewed by a second practitioner, and require maintenance of statewide provider trainings.

The LRE is in communications with the CMHSP's and providers to share this information. The region is currently preparing a response.

2. Child's Waiver Program:

There are currently 47 individuals enrolled in this waiver. The LRE recently formed a regional clinical review team to review Prior Review Authorization Requests (PRAR's). This team met for the first-time last month to review two PRAR requests. The group is scheduled to convene monthly if there are PRAR's to review.

3. Habilitation Supports Waiver:

The LRE has 629 HSW waiver slots that remain full. The LRE and CMHSP HSW Leads meet regularly to maintain these slots and identify appropriate individuals for enrollment.

4. Home and Community-Based Services:

The MSU HCBS heightened scrutiny reviews are actively occurring in virtual format. The LRE continues to provide out of compliance reviews as needed for providers as they come off heightened scrutiny status.

Validation Project - MDHHS notified the PIHP's they will be responsible for an HCBS validation project to ensure the responses on previous HCBS surveys were accurate. The project is expected to be significant and is scheduled to take place over the next six months. The validation process is in discussion.

5. Serious Emotional Disturbance:

There are 40 individuals enrolled in this waiver. Individuals continue to be enrolled and dis-enrolled as appropriate.

6. MDHHS Waiver Audit:

MDHHS has been conducting the HCBS Waivers and Substance Use Disorder site review of the LRE since October 19th, 2020. It is expected to conclude on December 4th, 2020. Allegan, HealthWest, Network 180, and Ottawa have been reviewed over the last 4 weeks. West Michigan CMH is scheduled for the week of November 16th.

7. Upcoming Mandated Reporter Trainings:

The LRE and Kent County DHHS are presenting two mandated reporter virtual trainings on December 8th and 9th geared toward Autism Providers. Registration is open. If interested, please see attached flier.