
Waiver Director's Report April 2021

1. Autism/Behavioral Health:

There are currently 1,365 individuals enrolled in the Applied Behavioral Health Autism Benefit. Fifty-one individuals were approved for ABA services in March and twenty-five individuals were disenrolled. A new closure form is being developed to best capture the reasons that children are disenrolling from ABA services.

Seven of eighteen Autism provider sites visits have been completed for FY21. Each autism center will have a virtual site review which includes a review of clinical documentation, credentialing, and facility standards.

Both initial and re-evaluation testing wait times have increased due to COVID-19 and have decreased availability of providers. Procurement for additional providers is occurring.

2. Child's Waiver Program:

There are currently 56 children enrolled in the CWP (Allegan – 2, HealthWest – 11, Network180 – 34, Ottawa – 6, and West Michigan – 1). Two children were invited to apply at the beginning of April. All children on the waiting list have been invited to apply for the waiver and there are currently no children waiting for the CWP.

A CWP parent handbook was created in conjunction with the CMHSPs. This handbook serves as a guide for families, so they can easily reference the expectations and requirements of the waiver.

3. Habilitation Supports Waiver:

The LRE has 629 HSW waiver slots full. The LRE saw two disenrollment's in March and is enrolling two more individuals for April to maintain maximum slot capacity. The LRE and CMHSP HSW Leads meet regularly to maintain these slots and identify appropriate individuals for enrollment. CMHSP's are reporting increased difficulty since the onset of COVID-19 identifying appropriate HSW enrollees and preparing enrollment packets due to fewer face-to-face service contacts.

4. Home and Community-Based Services:

The MDHHS HCBS Validation Project is tentatively scheduled to begin in May for the HCBS providers that completed any of the HCBS survey with the exception of the last round and those who responded "yes" to all questions which resulted in being "in compliance". It is expected that most of this work will be completed remotely. Providers that serve more than one region can be approved through reciprocity agreements. MDHHS is requesting this project be completed in six months but will periodically review completion rates with the PIHP's and adjust the date if needed.

Provisional approvals for new providers remain at low volume and are running smoothly. All continue to be completed remotely. 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.

Michigan State University is about 75% complete with gathering information for Heightened Scrutiny (HS) reviews for the entire state. The Heightened Scrutiny Review Committee (HSRC) is reviewing their first test case and will then move on to reviewing the collected information for providers in HS. There will be some additional cases that will likely come back to the PIHP to review after the HSRC reviews but that is not estimated to occur until after the Validation Project is complete in the 2022-2023 timeframe.

5. Serious Emotional Disturbance:

The LRE has 50 individuals enrolled in the SEDW (Allegan – 3, HealthWest – 13, Network180 – 29, Ottawa – 4, and West Michigan – 1). 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. On March 5th, 2021 MDHHS accepted the remaining HSW and SEDW CAP's. MDHHS and the LRE are working to schedule a 90-day virtual follow-up review of the region.

7. Other:

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 applied for an Appendix K extension through October 2021, and this was approved on March 10th, 2021.