

Waiver Director's Report March 2021

1. Autism/Behavioral Health:

There are currently 1,329 enrolled in the Applied Behavioral Health Autism Benefit. Forty-three individuals were approved for ABA services in February and twenty-five individuals disenrolled. A new closure form is being developed to best capture the reasons that children are disenrolling from ABA services.

Regional Numbers

CMHSP	Current Open Enrollment	Closures	Total Child Served
Allegan	109	141	250
Healthwest	84	397	481
Network 180	911	585	1496
Ottawa	186	159	345
West Michigan	39	66	105
Total	1329	1348	2677

**This data includes only those children/youth who participated in direct ABA services. This does not include those children/youth who were approved for ABA services but declined services.

Five of eighteen Autism provider site visits have been completed for FY21, two more are scheduled this month with three more in April. Each autism center will have a virtual site review which includes a review of clinical documentation, credentialing, and facility standards.

New ABA provider, Bergmark Consulting, is now credentialed with Ottawa County to provide services.

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

2. Child's Waiver Program:

There are currently 54 children enrolled in the CWP (Allegan – 2, HealthWest – 11, Network180 – 34, Ottawa – 6, and West Michigan – 1). One child was invited to apply at the beginning of March. 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 five disenrollment's in February and is enrolling five more individuals for March 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 underway for the HCBS surveys that were completed between 2015 and 2017. Finalized Validation Reports were received from MDHHS on February 22nd, 2021. Two updates to these reports have since been received, the most recent being March 8th. PIHP HCBS are meeting with MDHHS on Friday, March 19th to discuss a timeline for completion of this project. It is expected that most of this work will be completed remotely.

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 have the PIHP's begin sending provisional surveys out. 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 a 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 44 individuals enrolled in this waiver (Allegan – 2, HealthWest – 13, Network180 – 25, Ottawa – 2, 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.