

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES

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Strong Families - South Dakota's Foundation and Our Future

February 2, 2015

RE: South Dakota Home and Community Based Services Statewide Transition Plan

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published new regulations that define the settings in which states can provide Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). The final rule became effective March 17, 2014 to ensure people receive Medicaid HCBS in home and work settings that are integrated in and support full access to the greater community. In August 2014, Medicaid gave presented an overview of the final rule. A recording of that presentation is available online: <http://dss.sd.gov/medicaid/hcbs.aspx>

The new regulations require the Department of Social Services to develop a transition plan to ensure that settings meet the new CMS settings requirements. The Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Department of Human Services (DHS) formed a collaborative workgroup representing each of the four Medicaid waivers and the state Medicaid agency. Providers completed the assessment in September and October 2014. The workgroup assessed compliance with the HCBS Settings final rule and drafted the transition plan to identify action steps and timelines for South Dakota's compliance with the new rule. Earlier this month, DSS and DHS presented South Dakota's draft action items and timelines and asked you to provide input. Information from those presentations is available online: <http://dss.sd.gov/medicaid/hcbs.aspx>

Federal regulations require states to obtain public input regarding the transition plan and to make the transition plan available to the public. The transition plan is available online at <http://dss.sd.gov/medicaid/hcbs.aspx>

The transition plan will be open for public comment for thirty days from February 2, 2015 to March 4, 2015. We encourage you to view the transition plan and share the link with other interested individuals. DSS appreciates your questions and comments. Comments may be made in four ways:

1) E-Mail: hcbs@state.sd.us

2) Mail: South Dakota Medicaid
ATTN: HCBS Transition Plan
700 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501

3) Phone:

HCBS (ASA) Waiver
(605) 773-3656

CHOICES WAIVER
(605) 773-3438

Medicaid
(605) 773-3495

4) Town Hall Conference Call with South Dakota Medicaid:

- February 18, 2015: 9 – 10 AM CST
- February 19, 2015: 4 – 5 PM CST
 - Dial-In: 1-866-410-8397
 - Conference Code: 8815043390

Attached to this letter is a poster describing the transition plan and how to make a comment. We encourage you to post this poster in a public place in your setting to make individuals residing in your setting aware of the transition plan and the public comment period. This poster will also be posted in local DSS offices across the state.

Please contact the department within 30 days of receipt of the date of this message with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Ann Schwartz
Deputy Director
Division of Medical Services
South Dakota Department of Social Services

CC: Lynne A. Valenti, Cabinet Secretary
Brenda Tidball-Zeltinger, Deputy Secretary