



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Charlie Crist
Governor

Robert A. Butterworth
Secretary

DATE: September 18, 2007

TO: Regional Directors and Circuit Administrators

THROUGH: George Sheldon, Assistant Secretary for Operations
David Fairbanks, Assistant Secretary for Programs

FROM: *Patricia Badland*
Patricia Badland, Director of Office of Family Safety

SUBJECT: Impact of changes to the services provided by the Agency for Persons with Disabilities through Developmental Disabilities Waivers for children served by the Department of Children and Families.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this memo is to provide you with additional information concerning changes to the services provided by the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) through the Developmental Disabilities Wavier Program. On July 27th, a memorandum was provided outlining the legislatively directed reductions and eliminations of specific waiver services (see attached memo). In addition to the previously provided information, children living in family settings or foster homes, who are receiving the Family Supported Living Waiver or Consumer Directed Care Plus Waiver, will have their support coordination services reduced to limited support coordination as of October 1st, 2007.

ACTION REQUIRED: Please share this information with your Circuit Administrators and CBC lead agencies. APD area offices can assist with questions. Some service reductions were effective August 1, 2007 and additional service reductions are effective October 1st, 2007. APD is still awaiting Center for Medicaid Services (federal) approval for services that will be eliminated, but the plan is to eliminate the service categories within 30 days if federal approval is given.

BACKGROUND: The 2007 Florida Legislature passed legislation directing the Agency for Persons with Disabilities to eliminate or modify services provided through several wavier programs. These changes apply to individuals receiving services through Developmental Disabilities Waivers.

Notification letters regarding services reductions and service eliminations have already been sent out by the APD area offices to the guardians of record. APD and DCF have identified children who are to be impacted by these changes. In order to receive a copy of the list of children please contact, or have your Community Based Care Lead Agencies contact, Frank Platt in the Office of Family Safety (contact information below). I am attaching an Agency for Persons with Disabilities Information document concerning the service changes.

1317 Winewood Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0700

Mission: Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency

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CONTACT INFORMATION: If you have any questions, please contact or have your CBC contact, Frank Platt, Office of Family Safety, Frank_Platt@dcf.state.fl.us, and 850-922-2860.

Attachment

cc. Matthew Claps, Agency for Persons with Disabilities

Agency for Persons with Disabilities Information Sheet

What services did the Legislature eliminate? These service changes require federal government approval. They will take effect 30 days after receiving approval.

Chore, Non-residential Support Services, and Homemaker Services will be eliminated. However, the definition of In-Home Support Services will be expanded to include activities previously provided in the eliminated services.

Massage Therapy and IQ Testing (Psychological Assessments) will be eliminated.

What services will be limited?

The services the Legislature limited by law are listed below. The Agency is developing procedures for implementing these limits that will be available on the Agency's web site. With the exception of Residential Habilitation services, the change in service limits will be phased in for all affected individuals either on August 1 or October 1, 2007. Notification is being sent to all those affected by changes. There may be additional service modifications made according to the agency's waiver plan.

Supported Living Coaching will be limited to no more than 20 hours a month for persons who also receive in-home support services.

Support Coordination to all persons under the age of 18 who live in the family home (including foster home settings) will be limited to Limited Support Coordination only.

Personal Care Attendants shall be limited to 180 per month. Additional hours may be authorized only if there is a substantial change in circumstances. APD and the Agency for Health Care Administration is working with AHCA to allow for people under the age of 21 to receive more than 180 hours of Personal Care Assistance if medically necessary. The Medicaid State plan will cover the cost of the additional hours.

Residential Habilitation Services will be limited to no more than 8 hours a day. Additional hours may be authorized for persons who have intensive medical, adaptive, or behavioral needs. (In effect until 4 tier system implemented.) This limit will not be implemented until October 1, 2007.

Here are several useful links that discuss the changes in more detail:

"Questions and answers about the Medicaid Waiver"

<http://apd.myflorida.com/about/waiver-questions-and-answers.htm>

"Get the facts"

<http://apd.myflorida.com/about/get-the-facts.htm>