

WASP REVIEW FOR ANNUAL PUBLIC INPUT FORUM – 11/29/2017

Waiver for Additional Services and Populations (WASP) is a Montana Medicaid Waiver Program administered by the Department of Public Health and Human Services.

WASP POPULATIONS COVERED:

- 1) Individuals age 18 or older, with Severe Disabling Mental Illness (SDMI) who qualify for or are enrolled in the state-financed Mental Health Services Plan (MHSP), but are otherwise ineligible for Medicaid benefits and either:
 - a. Have income 0 - 138% of the Federal Poverty Level and are eligible for or enrolled in Medicare;
OR
 - b. Have income 139 – 150% of the Federal Poverty Level regardless of Medicare status (they can be covered or not covered by Medicare and be eligible).
- 2) Provide a 12-month continuous eligibility period for all non-expansion Medicaid-covered individuals whose eligibility is based on Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI).
- 3) Individuals determined categorically eligible for Aged, Blind or Disabled (ABD) for dental treatment services above the \$1,125 State Plan dental treatment cap.

What is now the WASP originated 1996, and has undergone many changes in name and function. The current waiver approval expires 12/31/2017. An application to extend this approval until 12/31/2021 is currently under consideration by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

ENROLLMENT:

WASP (MHSP) enrollment was approximately 1,100 members at the end of 2016 and nearly 1,145 at the end of September, 2017. The WASP allows a maximum of 3,000 (MHSP) enrollees to be served. With the implementation of Medicaid expansion in January of 2016, many previous WASP members (called Basic Medicaid before the name change) became eligible for Montana Medicaid Expansion.

WASP COVERED SERVICES:

- The MHSP Waiver population receives the Standard Medicaid benefit
- The non-expansion Medicaid-covered individuals whose eligibility is based on MAGI are extended 12-month continuous eligibility for their existing Standard Medicaid benefit
- The categorically eligible for Standard Medicaid ABD population will have their dental treatment services above the \$1,125 State Plan cap covered by the WASP.

WASP 2017 UPDATES:

- Montana submitted an evaluation design for the WASP in 2010. This evaluation process created a baseline survey of 800 MHSP Waiver individuals completed in the summer of 2012 and a follow-up in October of 2015. The survey has helped us learn about participants' health status, access to health care, and quality of care. A new survey and analysis are underway and scheduled for completion early in 2018. There have been no other significant updates to the WASP in 2017.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

- WASP eligibility or benefit question regarding the MHSP Waiver population to:
 - Helen Higgins, (406) 444-3055 or HHiggins@mt.gov
- Other questions or comments about the WASP to:
 - Linda Skiles-Haddock, (406) 444-6868 or Lskiles-haddock@mt.gov