

Posted online and published in newspapers for public comment on Wednesday, October 7, 2020

**Montana Medicaid 1915(c) Home and Community Based Services Big Sky Waiver for the Elderly and Adults with Physical Disabilities Amendment
Effective January 27, 2021**

The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) is pleased to invite public comment regarding the upcoming Home and Community Based 1915(c) Montana Medicaid Big Sky Waiver for the Elderly and Adults with Physical Disabilities (BSW) amendment, that DPHHS will be submitting for Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approval on November 5, 2020. The effective date of the amendment is January 27, 2021.

DPHHS has determined that daily rate increases for assisted living, specialized assisted living for Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and group homes that serve elderly and disabled members are required to address and remedy identified barriers to access and quality service delivery for Montanans across the state. The congregate care services identified are necessary to serve the high needs of Montana Medicaid residents in the least costly setting.

The BSW Residential Habilitation - Assisted Living Facilities and Adult Foster Homes rate will increase to \$104.00 per day from \$78.80 max rate per day.

The BSW Residential Habilitation rate for TBI/Adult Residential services will increase to \$165.77 per day from \$109.78 per day; and the Residential Habilitation- Elderly Disabled Group Home rate will increase to \$206.58 per day from \$158.91 per day.

Big Sky Waiver New Service Proposal

DPHHS has also determined that residents exhibiting adverse behaviors, or in need of enhanced memory care, prompts the need for the establishment a new BSW Service. Adverse behaviors are often compounded by complex diagnoses and unique disease progression. Behavior management intervention within assisted living facilities promotes a Medicaid resident's greater ability to age in place within their preferred setting and community. A resident's ability to age in place maintains consistency, interpersonal relationships, emotional security, and dignity. Historically, it has been found that when resident's exhibit adverse behaviors, such as verbal and physical aggression, wandering, elopement, frequent falls, and impulsive behaviors and/or actions, assisted living facilities are often compelled to issue residents an involuntary 30-day eviction notice. If discharges are rendered successful, residents often are inappropriately hospitalized, placed in skilled nursing facilities, or settings specializing in mental health intervention until stabilized.

The requested rate for this new service, called Residential Habilitation – Assisted Living Facilities and Adult Foster Homes- Behavior Management, is \$141.00 per day.

The draft BSW Waiver Amendment is available for review on October 7, 2020 at <http://dphhs.mt.gov/SLTC/csb>. The state, upon request, will make available hard copies of the waiver amendments. Questions and comments can be submitted **from October 7 through November 5, 2020**, addressed to: Mary Eve Kulawik, Medicaid State Plan Amendment and Waiver Coordinator, at (406) 444-2584 or mkulawik@mt.gov; or Director's Office, PO Box 4210, Helena, MT 59604-4210.