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Montana Medicaid Severe and Disabling Mental Illness 1915(c) Home and Community Based
Services Waiver Renewal
Effective July 1, 2020**

On or before 03/31/2020, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) will submit a request to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to renew the Montana Medicaid Severe and Disabling Mental Illness (SDMI) 1915(c) Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver. The department is requesting approval to operate the renewed waiver from 07/01/2020 to 06/30/2025.

The Montana Medicaid SDMI 1915(c) HCBS Waiver (Waiver) provides long term services in supports to members with a severe and disabling mental illness in a community setting as an alternative to receiving long term care services in a nursing facility setting. It is a combination 1915(c) and 1915(b)(4) waiver, combining a specialized array of services with conflict free case management statewide.

Montana Medicaid Members can access the waiver if they meet a nursing home level of care, have an approved SDMI diagnosis and level of impairment, and are 18 years of age or older. The proposed waiver renewal includes changes in the number of members served, the services offered, and language improvements to clearly describe the program design.

Members Served:

The following increases in the number of members served is proposed:

- The Waiver currently serves up to 357 members statewide.
- DPHHS is proposing to increase the unduplicated members served to 600 in year 1, 650 in year 2, and 750 in years 3 through 5.
- There is a proposed reserve capacity in the waiver for individuals discharging from Montana State Hospital, Montana Mental Health Nursing Care Center, and individuals accessing Money Follows the Person.

Services Offered:

- The following changes are proposed to improve to service definitions and/or modify payment rates: Services have been removed, added, and amended/combined to better serve the behavioral needs and symptomology of members with severe and disabling mental illness and to alleviate duplicative services. Four services - Specially Trained Attendant, Habilitation Aide, Homemaker, and Lifecoach - have been removed and combined into one new service: Recovery Assistant.
- Pre-vocational services are removed due to underutilization and an inherent duplication with Support Employment.
- Proposed rates were established for new services: Recovery Assistant, Representative Payee, Intensive Mental Health Group Homes, and Mental Health Group Homes.
- Residential Habilitation has been amended to add 2 new levels of Group Home services: Mental Health Group Home and Intensive Mental Health Group Home.
- Personal Assistance Services, agency-based and self-directed, have proposed rate increases.

Program Design:

The following changes are proposed to improve the overall program design and operations:

- The SDMI definition has been updated to reflect current terminology. This does not reflect a change in eligibility for the waiver.
- Eligibility groups and Montana post-eligibility treatment of income were amended to reflect the accurate information.
- The SDMI determination form has been replaced with the Severe and Disabling Mental Illness, Home and Community Services Waiver, Evaluation and Level of Impairment form.
- A member's placement on the waitlist will be determined by their combined scores from the level of care assessment and level of impairment evaluation. There will no longer be an additional assessment to determine a member's placement on the waitlist.
- Additional oversight has been added for incident management. The definition for serious occurrences has been updated and classified under critical and non-critical. This also includes generating monthly reports to monitor serious occurrences and a monthly utilization report for emergency room visits.

The projected average annual cost of services is approximately \$28,600 per member.

The proposed total cost of the waiver is approximately \$16,600,000 with an expected cost offset by state plan services of approximately (-\$10,000,000), for a net proposed cost of approximately \$6,600,000.

The draft of the 1915(c) HCBS SDMI Waiver amendment and a detailed summary of changes is available for review at:

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/amdd/mentalhealthservices/severedisablingmentalillness-sdmi-homeandcommunitybased-hcbs-waiverprogram>. Hard copies are available upon request.

We invite your comments and questions **by 5:00 p.m. on 03/03/2020**. You may direct comments 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.