



## TRANSITION PLAN FOR CT DDS HOME AND COMMUNITY SUPPORTS WAIVER FOR PERSONS WITH AUTISM WAIVER.

In January 2014, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a requirement for states to review and evaluate current home and community based (HCB) service settings, including residential and nonresidential settings, and to demonstrate how our waivers comply with the new federal HCB Settings requirements that went into effect March 17, 2014. States are expected to develop a transition plan that reflects compliance by March 17, 2019. The federal regulations are 42 CFR 441.301(c)(4)-(5). The CT Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has created a **draft** Transition Plan to assess compliance with the HCBS settings rule and identify strategies and timelines for developing a plan for compliance with the new rule. CMS posted additional guidance to help states assess compliance and remediate areas that are not fully in compliance.

More information on the rules can be found on the CMS website at [www.medicaid.gov/hcbs](http://www.medicaid.gov/hcbs). The Arc <http://www.thearc.org/document.doc?id=4596>

The **draft** Transition Plan is open for public comment. The public comment period will be open for 30 days to allow all HCBS participants and providers an opportunity to provide input to the Transition Plan.

All settings of current waiver participants in the Home And Community Supports Waiver For Persons With Autism have been reviewed and fully comply with the new HCBS rule. DDS has reviewed the settings in which Home And Community Supports Waiver For Persons With Autism participants reside. This waiver serves children as young as 8 and across the lifespan who are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The waiver participants receive services in their family home or their own home. This is fully compliant with the new rule.

Notice has been published in the CT Law Journal on 7/15/2014 regarding the Transition Plan.

A second notice was published on the DDS website along with the state Transition Plan.

This waiver provides participants with services in their family home or rented home. The home is owned or rented by the family member. This is fully compliant with the new regulatory requirements.

In preparation for the Transition Plan Department of Developmental Services reviewed the current waiver services and identified one service and setting that required further review to assure compliance with the new HCBS requirements. The setting requiring review is the Community Companion Homes. Currently no waiver participants served by this waiver reside in this setting.

## **Community Companion Home**

Assist with the acquisition, improvement and /or retention of skills and provide necessary support to achieve personal outcomes that increase an individual's independence and an individual's ability to live in their community as specified in their Individual Plan. This service is specifically designed to result in learned outcomes, but can also include elements of personal support that occur naturally during the course of the day. Examples of the type of support that may occur in these settings include:

- Provision of instruction and training in one or more need areas to enhance the individual's ability to access and use the community;
- Implement strategies to address behavioral, medical or other needs identified in the Individual Plan;
- Implement all therapeutic recommendations including Speech, O.T., P.T., and assist in following special diets and other therapeutic routines; and
- Training or practice in basic consumer skills such as shopping, banking, personal care or other ADL skills.

Provision of these services is limited to licensed CCH settings. The home is owned, leased or rented by the licensed CCH provider. The total number of individuals (including participants served in the waiver) living in the home, who are unrelated to the principal care provider, cannot exceed three. Services are provided 24 hours a day 7 days per week. Payments for residential habilitation in this setting does not include room and board, the cost of facility maintenance, upkeep or improvement. In some other states this service is known as Adult Foster Care.

The state will engage stakeholders to provide input on the final transition plan that will be submitted to CMS for final review by 10/31/2014.

Comments and input on the transition plan can be submitted during the 30 day comment period the following ways:

By email: [Siobhan.Morgan@ct.gov](mailto:Siobhan.Morgan@ct.gov)

By mail: Siobhan C. Morgan

Department of Developmental Services

460 Capitol Ave

Hartford CT 06106

By Fax: 1-860-622-2769