



THE COORDINATING CENTER
INSPIRED SOLUTIONS



Sheri Weissman
Virtual webinar
July 8, 2020

Autism Waiver

During COVID-19 and Beyond

MISSION



The mission of The Coordinating Center is to partner with people of all ages and abilities and those who support them in the community to achieve their aspirations for independence, health and meaningful community life.



THE COORDINATING CENTER

- Is the largest independent care coordination organization in Maryland and serves 10,000 individuals annually
- Has been rooted in the community for more than three decades
- Employs more than 200 highly qualified licensed nurses, certified social workers, community health workers, housing specialists, and supports planners



COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES



Community Care
Coordination



Population Health



Life Care Planning



Managed Care Case
Management



Hospital Readmission
Reduction Programs



Long-term Services and
Supports



Transitions of Care



Housing & Supportive
Services



HOW WE GOT INVOLVED

- Each Local School System (LSS) was given a choice
- Dorchester, Harford, Howard, and Worcester counties
- 177 Autism Waiver (AW) participants across all four (4) counties



*Thank
you*



APPENDIX K

- Utilized by states during emergency situations to request amendments to Waiver programs
- The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) worked collaboratively with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to submit Appendix K
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) approved the Autism Waiver's Appendix K on April 24, 2020
- Amendments are effective March 1, 2020 through February 28, 2021





APPENDIX K REVISIONS

TRANSITIONING YOUTH



TRANSITIONING YOUTH

- Appendix K allows for transitioning youth (TY) Autism Waiver (AW) participants to remain on the Autism Waiver beyond June 30th.
- Autism Waiver Service Coordinators (SC) coordinated with AW service providers about current and possible future service provision:
 - in person, virtual, and a combination of both
- DDA Coordinators of Community Services (CCS) coordinated with DDA service providers to assess future ability to serve students in approved programs:
 - in person, virtual, and a combination of both



TRANSITIONING YOUTH

- Autism Waiver SC, DDA CCS, and parent discussed current and future options through the AW and DDA to help parent make informed decision.
- Parent choice to stay on the Autism Waiver or transition into DDA.
- Autism Waiver and DDA CCS informed their designated state agency contact of parent's choice.



TRANSITIONING YOUTH

- Stay on the Autism Waiver:
 - new LOC and POC completed with extended end dates.
- Goal:
 - TY student transitions once DDA programs and/or services are open and it's safe for individual to begin services.
- Last day that TY student can remain on the Autism Waiver:
 - February 28, 2021.



TRANSITIONING YOUTH

- Transition July 1st:
 - MSDE submitted documentation requesting disenrollment from the Autism Waiver on June 30th.
- DDA CCS case management begins.





APPENDIX K REVISIONS

WAIVER SERVICES



AUTISM WAIVER: INCREASED SERVICE HOURS

Available through February 28, 2021

- IISS: 15 additional hours (40 total hours)
- Respite: 336 additional hours (672 total hours)
- Family Consultation: 10 additional hours (50 total hours)
- Adult Life Planning: 15 additional hours (35 total hours)
- Residential Habilitation: 3 additional days of retainer payments (18 retainer days)



AUTISM WAIVER: INCREASED SERVICE HOURS

- Parent must reach out to the Service Coordinator to inform of their interest in accessing increased hours;
- Plan of Care (POC) or Plan of Care Addendum needs to be completed; and
- Without a new POC or POC Addendum, the provider IS NOT approved to provide the additional hours.



AUTISM WAIVER SERVICES: TELEHEALTH

- Adult Life Planning (ALP)
- Family Consultation (FC)
- Intensive Individual Support Services (IISS)
- Intensive Therapeutic Integration (ITI)
- Therapeutic Integration (TI)

*Provider treatment plans may require revision to reflect goals being completed via telehealth



AUTISM WAIVER STAFFING: PARENTS

- ONLY permitted to provide IISS.
- Also applies to step-parents who are legal guardians.
- Need to speak with Service Coordinator and assigned provider if interested.
- Waived: 3 references, some required trainings; and
- Still required: background check, high school diploma



AUTISM WAIVER STAFFING: ALL OTHERS

- **Waived**: 3 references
- **Still required**: background check, high school diploma, 100 hours experience, and trainings on Reportable Events, the participant's treatment plan, and emergency protocols
- **120 Extension from date of hire**: trainings on HIPAA, PBI & Restraints, Abuse & Neglect





APPENDIX K

SERVICE COORDINATION



SERVICE COORDINATION CHANGES

Visits

- **Quarterly:** Videoconference, phone
- **Annual:** Videoconference, phone

Level of Care (LOC) Meetings

- **Initial:** Videoconference, phone
- **Recertification:** Videoconference, phone

*HCPSS requires us to use Microsoft Teams for meetings



SERVICE COORDINATION CHANGES

LOC Recertification Meetings

- Can be postponed if necessary; and
- Needs to be completed by February 28th, 2021.





AUTISM WAIVER REGISTRY UPDATES



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AUTISM WAIVER REGISTRY INFORMATION



- 1-866-417-3480;
- DOB, SSN, current contact info;
- Need to update address, phone number, e-mail address if there is any change; and
- 8 year wait.



WHILE YOU WAIT

- ABA available through private health insurance, MD Medicaid;
- Apply for DDA:

<https://dda.health.maryland.gov/pages/howtoapply.aspx>

- Apply for Community First Choice:

<https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/longtermcare/Resource%20Guide/03.%20Program%20Fact%20Sheets/Fact%20Sheet%20-%20CFC%20March%202018.pdf>



AUTISM WAIVER APPLICATION PROCESS

- Letters to registry families were mailed in May.
- Focus was on obtaining financial applications first.
- We started scheduling initial assessment meetings with parents and school teams in early May once financial applications were received.



AUTISM WAIVER APPLICATION PROCESS

- 61 letters total in all four (4) counties
- 35 letters went to Howard County families
 - 5 pending enrollment
 - 2 pending scheduled initial assessment meetings
 - 16 not pursuing: medically/technically/financially
 - ineligible; moved out of state; no response to contact attempts
 - 12 financial applications still needed



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