



THE STATE
of ALASKA
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Health

SENIOR AND DISABILITIES SERVICES
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 21, 2024

TO: Home and Community-Based Waiver Service participants, waiver service providers, and other stakeholders

FROM: Anthony Newman, Director, Senior and Disabilities Services^{AJN}

RE: Revisions to LRIs and support plan renewal and Acuity add-on for Family Home Habilitation: Five (5) Personal Care and HCBS Waiver services continuing after June 30, 2024

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has allowed Alaska to permit five (5) services to continue after June 30, 2024, but the accompanying updated service regulations will not be completed by that date.

This means there is a time gap between July 1, 2024, and the date the regulations will become effective. This Director's Memo outlines the five (5) services that SDS will continue to permit until the updated regulations become effective.

Until the updated regulations become effective, providers are expected to continue to provide quality service delivery and adhere to service documentation requirements in accordance with current regulations.

1. Legally Responsible Individuals (LRIs) providing Community First Choice Personal Care Services (CFC-PCS)

Regulation to be updated: 7 AAC 127.015

SDS will allow LRIs to provide CFC-PCS services if the services are included in the participant's support plan and SDS has authorized the provision of LRIs to provide

those services. If an LRI is providing CFC-PCS to a participant, SDS is not requiring care coordinators to submit amendments to the support plan. Instead, the care coordinator can include the information upon support plan renewal.

2. Legally Responsible Individuals (LRIs) providing HCBS In-Home Supports and Supported Living waiver services

Regulation to be updated: 7 AAC 130.202

SDS will allow LRIs to provide the In-Home Supports and the Supported Living services if the services are included in the participant's support plan and SDS has authorized the provision of LRIs to provide those services. If an LRI is providing CFC-PCS to a participant, SDS is not requiring care coordinators submit amendments to the support plan. Instead, the care coordinator can include the information updated upon support plan renewal.

3. Employment Services

Regulation to be updated: 7 AAC 130.270

Conditions of Participation to be updated: Employment Services Conditions of Participation

Job coaches and employment services specialists will have until July 1, 2025, or one year from their date of hire if later, to obtain the NCES training certificate or an equivalent certificate in Employment Services.

Please review the PHE FAQs issued on May 30, 2024, for information about the Employment Services Program Administrator certification deadline on June 30, 2024.

4. Acuity Add-On

Regulation to be updated: 7 AAC 130.267

The changes to the Acuity Add-On will allow participants to receive:

- Acuity add-on in an 8-hour unit of time instead of a 24-hour unit;
- 2:1 Acuity add-on;
- Acuity add-on to the Family Home Habilitation service

SDS will allow changes to the units of Acuity if the services are included in the participant's support plan and SDS has authorized those services. Staffing of one staff to one participant (1:1) in each 8 hour unit is required, or two staff to one participant (2:1) depending on the service authorization and unit type. Documentation requirements remain unchanged.

5. Specialized Homes

Regulation to be updated: 7 AAC 130.265

Effective July 1, 2024, CMS approved of a modification to the Residential Habilitation service to include Specialized Group Habilitation Homes and Specialized Family Habilitation Homes. The Specialized Homes will serve highly acute participants with complex needs.

Please contact SDS if you are a provider who is interested in offering the Specialized Homes service. The established daily rate approved during the Appendix K is \$870.00, but this is subject to change as the regulations and provider criteria are further developed. Providers that meet the criteria and establish a home during this period will be paid at \$870 until any subsequent rate is calculated and approved by regulation.

If you have questions, please email: HSS.DSDS.Policy@alaska.gov