



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Department of
Health and Social Services

SENIOR AND DISABILITIES SERVICES

550 W 8th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501
Main: 907.269.3666
Toll free: 800.478.9996
Fax: 907.269.3689

11/18/19

To: Myers and Stauffer, LC
Thru: Doug Jones, Program Integrity
From: Deb Etheridge, Acting Director Senior and Disabilities Services

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "DE", located to the right of the "From:" line.

RE: Clarification on Respite (S5150)

In recent audits Myers and Stauffer recorded findings in circumstances where the plan of care or delivery notes had not justified the use of more than 10 hours per week of Respite (S5150) *. Senior and Disabilities Services authorizes services for Home and Community Based Services. Respite is a service authorized on behalf of a recipient of services, but intended for the use of a primary caregiver to prevent burnout.

The service is authorized for a maximum yearly amount of 520 hours. The amount is created by multiplying 10 hours per week times 52 weeks. This is the only service that is intended to be used by the caregiver and not the recipient, therefore is distinguished as unique in comparison to all other HCBS Waiver Services. SDS has not strictly prohibited the use of more than 10 hours per week of respite, and in some situations, has authorized more than 520 hours per plan year.

The intent of the service is to offer primary caregivers flexibility to use the service as needed. Please consider this as direction to remove Respite (S5150) as a finding when an audit discovers more than 10 hours per week of usage.

All other HCB services should be used in accordance with the description in the plan of care regarding scope, duration and frequency.

*(See 1004461 Alaska Consumer Direct Personal Care)