



# Putting People First

## Memorandum

**To:** Provider Associations  
 Voluntary Provider Agency Executive Directors  
 OPWDD Regional Office Directors  
 OPWDD State Operations Office Directors  
 IBR Director  
 Commissioner's Advisory Council  
 DDPC Consumer Caucus  
 OPWDD Required Regulations Mailing List

**From:** Barbara Brundage, Director *BB*  
 Regulatory Affairs Unit

**Date:** July 12, 2012

**Re:** Proposed Regulations – Plan of Care Support Services Requirements

**Comments Due: Tuesday, September 4, 2012**

**Suggested distribution:**

Agency Administrators  
 Agency Financial Officers  
 Medicaid Service Coordination Supervisors

**Background:**

The purpose of Plan of Care Support Services (PCSS) is to provide service coordination services to individuals in the OPWDD HCBS Waiver. Currently, OPWDD has two models of service coordination, PCSS and Medicaid Service Coordination (MSC). Individuals enrolled in the HCBS Waiver receive one or the other based on the eligibility requirements for each model and their need for service coordination interventions. MSC is designed to provide ongoing and comprehensive service coordination as opposed to PCSS which is meant to be a less intensive form of service coordination. However, existing PCSS regulations, which provide for semi-annual reimbursement of two units of service annually, deter service coordinators from providing assistance to individuals who have unanticipated needs and deter enrollment in this lower cost service. Consequently, PCSS under the current regulations is not a viable option for the majority of individuals served by the HCBS waiver.

**Purpose:**

OPWDD is proposing regulations for PCSS that revise qualifications for service coordinators, eligibility for services and reimbursement eligibility and reimbursement methodology. Specifically, the proposed amendments increase the maximum allowable reimbursement by an additional two units of service, to allow for the provision of service to individuals who have unanticipated needs. Additionally, the proposed amendments lighten the professional development requirements for experienced service

coordinators, resulting in lower costs to PCSS providers. Lastly, the amendments delineate new requirements for the provision of initial PCSS. Initial PCSS is provided to an individual who has not been enrolled in the HCBS waiver or in MSC prior to receiving PCSS and includes activities and assistance necessary for initial service plan development and implementation. The fee for initial PCSS is three times the fee for regular PCSS. This change also eliminates the requirement that a person receive MSC for 90 days before receiving PCSS.

The proposed amendments to PCSS regulations will allow greater flexibility of PCSS service delivery for HCBS waiver enrolled individuals who are not eligible for MSC or who choose not to receive MSC. As of January 2011, there were only approximately 1,000 individuals participating in PCSS as compared to over 70,000 individuals receiving MSC. These revisions to PCSS regulations will help bridge the gap in services between the two models of service coordination and create a cost effective resolution that better meets the needs of individuals.

**Public comments:**

The deadline for public comment for these regulations is the close of business on Tuesday, September 4, 2012.

Written comments should be addressed to:

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An ADM on this topic will be issued around the time that these regulations become effective. OPWDD expects to finalize the proposed amendments October 1, 2012.

The proposed regulations can be found on the OPWDD website at:  
[http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/regulations\\_guidance/opwdd\\_regulations/proposed](http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/regulations_guidance/opwdd_regulations/proposed).

For questions regarding the regulations please contact Eric Pasternak by email at [eric.pasternak@opwdd.ny.gov](mailto:eric.pasternak@opwdd.ny.gov) or by telephone at (518) 474-1274.

Thank you.

cc: Mr. Pasternak  
Ms. Doran