



July 19, 2013

Dear OPWDD Provider:

**Effective September 30, 2013 OPWDD will end the provision of Community Habilitation II (CHII).**

The reasons for this change are several and are outlined below. This letter is to inform you of this coming change in the menu of HCBS waiver services so that you may prepare to transition the individuals you serve who are currently receiving Community Habilitation II services to other, appropriate HCBS waiver services that meet their needs.

**Why the change in services?**

OPWDD implemented the Community Habilitation Phase II Pilot on October 1, 2012 to allow flexibility for service providers who provided both Day Habilitation and Residential Habilitation services to an individual, allowing them to combine the habilitation plans and providing streamlined the documentation/billing mechanisms. As discussions have progressed between NYS and federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding the implementation of managed care in the OPWDD service system, it has become clear that this service will not fit into the new rate methodology known as the Brick Methodology which will be implemented this fall. Combining Day and Residential Habilitation services unduly complicates the determination of payment rates in a managed care environment. System-wide, the impact of this change is minimal. As of mid-June 2013, there were 78 individuals authorized to receive CHII services, with less than five percent of all eligible provider agencies participating in this service.

**Transition Assistance**

As of 7/1/13, OPWDD's DDROs will no longer authorize new Community Habilitation II program codes. Over the next several months, DDRO staff will assist provider agencies in transitioning individuals enrolled in the CHII Pilot into the component Day Habilitation and Residential Habilitation programs, including individuals who previously had OPTS Comprehensive Supervised IRA Residential Habilitation.

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As you prepare to make the necessary changes for those individuals currently receiving CHII and those who may have been contemplating including CHII in their service plans, please note the following:

- There is no reduction in service level for the participants, merely a change in agency service documentation and billing.
- A variety of Day Habilitation service options can be used to meet individuals' needs.
- The rate code will be set to zero for services provided after 9/30/13. Remember to inform billing staff/vendor of the date of the change in an individual's services (when CHII billing ceases) and the need to begin billing for discrete documented services (i.e. Supervised IRA Residential Habilitation **and Group Day Habilitation**).

#### **Action items**

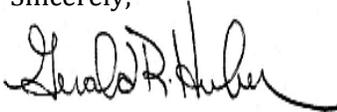
In order to prepare for the termination of the CHII service, agencies should plan on the following work load:

- Begin discussions with affected individuals and their advocates to coordinate needed residential and day supports they will need as soon as possible.
- Contact the appropriate DDRO to have services authorization changed for individuals who will have day habilitation specifically authorized when CHII ceases. No later than 10/31/13, revise the habilitation plan(s) to accurately reflect the new type(s) of services that will be provided and submit the revised plan(s) to the MSC for inclusion in a revised ISP.

#### **More information to follow**

In the coming weeks, OPWDD will provide further guidance about this change and make the necessary regulatory changes. Please contact the Waiver Unit with additional questions at [Patricia.Downes@opwdd.ny.gov](mailto:Patricia.Downes@opwdd.ny.gov)

Sincerely,



Gerald R. Huber  
Deputy Commissioner  
Division of Person Centered Supports