

MSC E-VISORY

Issue # 20-12

June 25, 2012

State of New York Office for People With Developmental Disabilities
Courtney Burke, Commissioner
Distributed by: Division of Person-Centered Supports
Gerald Huber, Acting Deputy Commissioner

The MSC E-Visory is an electronic advisory which provides pertinent and timely information about programs and services available to individuals receiving MSC. Announcements about MSC training, conferences and meetings appear regularly. **MSC Supervisors: Please share this issue with all MSC Service Coordinators and others as appropriate.** In order to receive an email notification when a new MSC E-Visory is posted, please sign up for our mailing list (listserv). Listserv information and past issues can be accessed via the OPWDD website at www.opwdd.ny.gov or via the following link: http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd_services_supports/service_coordination/medicaid_service_coordination/msc_e-visories

In This Issue:

Medicaid Service Coordination (MSC) for Willowbrook Class Members

Members of the Willowbrook class are entitled to receive service coordination that meets the requirements of the Willowbrook Permanent Injunction. Attached to this e-visory is a letter from Gerald Huber, dated June 25, 2012, regarding Medicaid Service Coordination (MSC) for Willowbrook Class Members.



Division of Person-Centered Supports

Gerald Huber, Acting, Deputy Commissioner

44 Holland Avenue
Albany, NY 12229-0001

TEL: 518-473-9697
FAX: 518-473-0054
TTY: 866-933-4889

www.opwdd.ny.gov

To: Executive Directors of MSC Vendors
From: Gerald Huber, Acting Deputy Commissioner
Division of Person-Centered Supports
Date: June 25, 2012
Subject: Medicaid Service Coordination (MSC) for Willowbrook Class Members

The provision of Medicaid Service Coordination is a critical element in ensuring appropriate HCBS waiver and other supports for people with Developmental Disabilities. The role of the MSC will remain intact for the next several years and all of the MSC functions will carry over into the People First Waiver. The move into the People First Waiver will be an incremental one and during the transition it will be necessary for OPWDD to keep the current system in place and to support the development of strategic transition to the new envisioned system. Further, members of the Willowbrook class are entitled to receive and will continue to receive service coordination that meets the requirements of the Willowbrook Permanent Injunction. MSC/service coordination is critical to successful implementation of the Willowbrook entitlements for services for class members.¹

As individuals who are members of the Willowbrook class and their advocates pursue any change in the provision of MSC it is important to take two key factors into consideration. Specifically:

- **Choice of Providers:** It is expected that Providers will be responsive to the choices made in the selection process for MSC services and will align their practices to the particular needs of the individuals who are members of the Class as defined in the Permanent Injunction. **The service coordination entitlements in place for class members must be maintained within the system as we move into a new waiver authority.**
- **Appropriate Reimbursement:** Given the defined requirements for class members and the heightened expectations for MSC practices, a reimbursement methodology is in place that allows for appropriate caseload development. For example, from a budgetary perspective, the reimbursement for MSC's carrying a caseload of eight individuals who are members of the Class and twelve individuals who are not class members and who are supported in a supervised setting is roughly equivalent to a caseload of forty individuals who are not class members and who are supported in a

¹ Please remember that a more comprehensive summary of the Willowbrook entitlements and the State and the Willowbrook parties' expectations with respect to service coordination, is available on the OPWDD website under the tab "Beyond Willowbrook," available at http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/sites/default/files/documents/willowbrook_cm_transition.pdf. Please take time to review these materials with your staff.

supervised setting. For clarification purposes please note that people in supervised settings bring six annual units to the provider's allocation whereas Class members bring twelve annual units no matter where they are supported.

Current Rates:

- Rate for Non- Class Member: \$252.98
- Rate for Class Member : \$474.34

While OPWDD is in a period of reform and transition, it is critical to ensure that we maintain required elements of support today as we look toward revised practices in the future. During that transition, holding true to the agency mission of helping people with developmental disabilities live richer lives and honoring each individual's choice of providers is essential. I know that through working together, transitions that take place will be smooth and will focus on ensuring the highest quality of supports to people served by OPWDD.

cc:

Helene DeSanto

Antonia Ferguson

Kate Bishop

State Operations and Regional Office Directors

Provider Association Members

MSC Liaisons

Willowbrook Liaisons

Lori Lehmkuhl

Eric Pasternak

Lynda Baum-Jakubiak

Jill Gentile

John Gleason

Jill Pettinger