



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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DEPARTMENT OF
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Dear Individuals and Families Receiving IDD Waiver Services:

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) is amending the three Medicaid Waivers (ID, DS, & DD) and the changes will be effective July 1, 2016. These amended waivers will have options for new services and are better designed than the current waivers to support individuals to live, work, and socialize in their own communities. The new waivers will provide more services for individuals and families and increase flexibility in service delivery options. The resulting benefits will enable people to change services more easily as their needs evolve.

Importantly, most individuals who are currently using waiver services will not notice any changes when the redesigned waivers take effect. However, some will be able to take advantage of one or more of the new services.

What may change for you related to how you spend your days? Effective July 1, 2016, prevocational services will NOT be available. If you are participating in prevocational services now, you will be able choose a different service. You can choose from *new* services, such as community engagement, community coaching, community guide, workplace assistance and benefits planning and/or *current* services, such as supported employment (individual/group) or group day support. You can learn more about these services through the enclosed document, "Waiver Redesign Proposed NEW Service Array," by talking with your case manager, or by talking with your current provider, all of whom will have been trained on the new waivers before June 2016.

In addition, if you currently live in a group home you will continue to live there, unless you choose a different living arrangement. Also, if you live with family or with a roommate you may continue to do so. Your living arrangement will change only if you choose to change it.

What other changes have been made to the waivers?

- Your case manager will be trained to utilize an electronic planning calendar. The planning calendar is a new tool that will help the case manager understand how you want to spend a typical week and then determine what supports are needed.
- Services have been designed to allow you to spend more time in the community doing the things you enjoy and to connect individuals with other community members.

- The provider you choose or already have will soon have more service delivery options (facility and/or community based).
- If an individual has significant changes in needs, case managers may request a new assessment in addition to updating the planning calendar and requesting changes in services.
- If you need to move to another waiver, this will occur without stopping services.
- Some services, such as non-Medicaid transportation and benefits counseling, will be available for individual-defined community activities starting in July 2017.

Finally, DBHDS, the community services boards and other community partners are working hard to ensure your transition will be seamless and a positive experience. Redesigning the three waivers is a big step in the right direction for Virginians who use and provide these services. Should you have questions or experience any frustration, your case manager is your first point of contact. However, beginning in April 2016, a 1-800 number will become available to help you resolve your concerns. Also, a great deal of information will be added for your reference to the DBHDS website at the following link: www.dbhds.virginia.gov/individuals-and-families/developmental-disabilities/my-life-my-community. You may also wish to send your email address to waiverupdates@dbhds.virginia.gov to receive periodic email updates from DBHDS on the waiver redesign.

We are looking forward to working with you throughout this process.

Sincerely,



Jack W. Barber, MD
Interim Commissioner

Enclosure