

June 29, 2017

Office of Long-Term Living Waiver Providers:

In January 2018, Pennsylvania will implement Community HealthChoices (CHC) in the Southwest region of the state. CHC is a program that will provide physical health care and long-term services and supports through a managed care plan chosen by the participant.

Once CHC is fully implemented:

- All services currently offered through the Aging, Attendant Care, COMMCARE, and Independence Waivers will be included in CHC. These waivers will be phased out as CHC is implemented across the state. Eligible participants in the OLTL waivers/programs that are transitioning to CHC will transition as that program is implemented in the participant's area.
- The OBRA Waiver will remain open to serve participants with an ICF/ORC level of care.
- The Act 150 Program will continue to provide long-term services and supports to eligible individuals.
- Participants in the LIFE Program will remain in LIFE unless they choose to move to CHC.

The COMMCARE Waiver will end statewide December 31, 2017.

Transition activities for COMMCARE Waiver participants in Southwest counties (Zone 1)

COMMCARE Waiver participants living in the Southwest Zone will transition to CHC effective January 1, 2018. The Southwest zone includes Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Bedford, Blair, Butler, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Somerset, Washington, and Westmoreland counties.

Transition activities for COMMCARE Waiver participants in all other counties (Zones 2 through 5)

COMMCARE Waiver participants who do not live in the Southwest zone will transition into the Independence Waiver. All services currently offered in the COMMCARE Waiver will be available in the Independence Waiver. Additionally, all COMMCARE Waiver providers will be available in the Independence Waiver. It is the Department of Human Services' (DHS) priority to ensure that participants are not impacted in any way.

Beginning in July 2017, COMMCARE Waiver participants who are under 60 years old and living outside of the Southwest zone will transition to the Independence Waiver.

Residential habilitation and structured day habilitation services will be added to the Independence Waiver effective October 1, 2017. Beginning in October 2017, COMMCARE Waiver participants living outside of the Southwest zone who are under 60 years old and receiving one or both of these services will transition to the Independence Waiver.

Beginning in November 2017, COMMCARE Waiver participants outside of the Southwest zone who are 60 years and older as of January 1, 2018, will transition to the Independence Waiver. Service plans for these participants will be authorized in the Independence Waiver prior to December 31, 2017.

All COMMCARE Waiver participants outside of the Southwest zone who transition to the Independence Waiver will continue receiving home- and community-based services through the Independence Waiver until CHC is implemented in their zone. DHS is working with COMMCARE Waiver providers to ensure service contract changes are made in Home and Community Services Information System (HCSIS) in preparation of this transition.

Respectfully,



Office of Long-Term Living Deputy Secretary Burnett