

**February 5, 2025 Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Subcommittee Meeting Follow-Up  
Items  
for the March 7, 2025 LTSS Subcommittee Meeting**

1. **Related to In Lieu of Services (ILOS)**, audience member Brenda Dare stated that it was mentioned that people can't be required to stay inside an Assisted Living Residence (ALR), but they are allowed to transition back to a community home. Brenda Deer asked if they would have access to Nursing Home Transition (NHT) or any other kind of comparable service to assist them in doing that or would someone be on their own as far as transitioning back out of an ALR if they decide that it was not for them.

**Josh Hoover, OLTL Human Services Program Executive, responded that individuals should contact the Community HealthChoices (CHC) Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) directly. Each proposal may have a slight variation on what they offer to a participant who has chosen ALR ILOS but wants to transition to a different community setting. OLTL will provide this question to the CHC-MCOs to be addressed in future ALR ILOS presentations.**

2. **Related to ILOS**, subcommittee member Pam Waltz asked whether the ILOS plan approved by Office of Long-Term Living (OLTL) or other ILOS service details for each CHC-MCO will be available to the public so that everyone will know what the criteria are and how to access ILOS.

**Josh Hoover, OLTL Human Services Program Executive, responded that individuals should contact the CHC-MCOs directly. They should also be able to find information in the CHC-MCO's Participant Handbook, as the CHC-MCO is required to include the Department of Human Services (DHS) approved ILOS offerings. OLTL will provide this question to the CHC-MCOs to be addressed in future ALR ILOS presentations.**

3. **Related to the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA)**, audience member Marcia Mikos from Office of Income Maintenance asked in chat if individuals participating in ILOS will receive the Personal Care Home (PCH) PNA of \$85 instead of the \$60 PNA that skilled facility residents receive?

**Josh Hoover, OLTL Human Services Program Executive, responded that the information presented during the February 5, 2025, LTSS Subcommittee meeting was incorrect. OIM has clarified that there is no difference in PNA calculation between NF and ALR ILOS. SSI recipients will receive a PNA deduction of \$52.10 (\$30 SSI plus the individual state supplement of \$22.10).**

4. **Related to the PNA**, subcommittee chair Katy Cubit asked if the cost of care for individuals not receiving SSI is being calculated through the nursing facility rules, the current PNA is \$60. Will these participants at least be guaranteed \$60 PNA, or will they be zeroed out of their income completely? Will the prescriptions be covered if they are only getting \$60 a month or no income?

Carl Feldman, Bureau Director in the Office of Income Maintenance, responded that non-SSI recipients participating in ALR ILOS will receive a \$60 PNA deduction from their income.

Generally, the participant’s physical health benefits (Pharmacy included) would be paid under the physical health benefit package—covered by the CHC-MCO—or Medicare Part D, for dual-eligible participants. Stakeholders should reach out to the CHC-MCO regarding specifics about prescription coverage.

- 5. **Related to ILOS**, audience member Amy Lowenstein asked in CHAT what the factors are that OLTL considers in deciding whether to approve an ALR for ILOS.

Megan Brandt, Section Chief of the Division of Provider Operations, responded that the only ALR’s that have been submitting applications at this time are those the MCO has outreached to so they can build their network as this is an In Lieu of Service. From a Medicaid standpoint, OLTL can approve them but that does not guarantee they will be in the MCO’s network.

As long as the applicant submits all required documentation, and it is sufficient then OLTL would have no reason to deny the application. The only reason OLTL would deny an application would be if an owner/managing employee popped up on an exclusion list and even on the rare occasion that happens OLTL would communicate with the applicant that OLTL cannot proceed with the application if that owner/managing employee remains on the application.

- 6. **Pertaining to SSI homes**, subcommittee member Pam Walz asked what the capacity is in the SSI homes. Theresa Hartman stated that there is less capacity in SSI Homes, but she did not have the figures readily available at the time of the meeting.

Josh Hoover, OLTL Human Services Program Executive, responded that PCH and ALR providers are not required to accept individuals who are receiving SSI. They are also not required to report this choice to the Department, so the number of facilities accepting and the number of residents receiving SSI is fluid. The following data was correct as of 12/31/2024.

	PCH	ALR
Residents receiving SSI	3,711	15
Residents not receiving SSI	36,121	3,524
PCH and ALR serving SSI recipients	377 of 1010	3 of 62
Facilities serving exclusively SSI population	74 or 7%	0

7. **Regarding the Direct Care Worker Quality Grant**, for any organization who is interested in participating, please contact Abigail Peslis ([abbypeslis@psu.edu](mailto:abbypeslis@psu.edu)), Director of Penn State Harrisburg Continuing Education. The grant was passed in 2024 to develop innovative ways to improve direct care workers' job quality. This will be achieved by conducting a series of interviews to obtain information with which to build to an intervention stage. From there, they will create five different interventions that have the potential to resolve barriers to job quality and career development for direct care workers.