



Office of Long-Term Living (OLTL) Updates

Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Subcommittee Meeting

July 2, 2025

Presenter: Juliet Marsala, Deputy Secretary



Pennsylvania
Department of Human Services

Agenda

- OLTL Updates
 - Procurement Updates
 - House Resolution 165: Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Study
 - International Resident Assessment Instrument (InterRAI) Upgrade Evaluation
 - Nurse Licensure Compact
 - PA Link Evaluation
 - Recent OLTL Communications



▶ OLTL Procurement Updates

■ Procurement Updates

– Community HealthChoices (CHC) Request for Applications (RFA)

- On August 22, 2024, the Department of Human Services (DHS) announced the applicants selected for agreement negotiations for the CHC Program Re-Procurement.
- The CHC RFA is currently in a stay. All activity pertaining to the RFA has ceased, and no timeline can be shared at this time.
- The CHC program will continue to operate under the current CHC-Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) and agreements until further notice.
- **All questions regarding the RFA and its contents should be directed to Procurement via the resource account RA-pwrfaquestions@pa.gov.**



➤ HR 165: HCBS Study Released

- House Resolution 2023-165 (HR 165) tasked the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee (LBFC) with conducting a study of the effect of HCBS workforce shortages on commonwealth-supported Medicaid waiver programs, the Pennsylvania Lottery-funded Area Agencies on Aging programs, and Act 150 services.
- The final report was published in June 2025 and can be found here:
<https://www.palbfc.gov/Resources/Documents/Reports/800.pdf>
- On May 16, 2025, as a standard LBFC practice and as required by Act 195 of 1959, we sent a letter to the Secretary of Human Services with a confidential draft of this report to allow for comment. On May 30, 2025, a representative from DHS notified us via email that DHS would not be providing a formal response to the report.
- Questions related to the HR 165 study should be addressed to the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee.



Inter-RAI Upgrade Evaluation

- The Inter-RAI is used for the comprehensive assessments that inform person centered service planning.
- The Inter-RAI Home Care assessment tool version 9.1.2 has been in use in Pennsylvania since 2018.
- Version 10 was released by Inter-RAI in 2021.
- OLTL has begun evaluating and preparing to upgrade from the 9.1.2 version to the 10 version.
- Participants and advocates will be included the process and work planning is underway.
- We do not expect material changes to the Functional Eligibility Determination.
- We anticipate up to 12 months would be needed for evaluation and implementation.

➤ Nurse Licensure Compact

- Pennsylvania has joined the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC).
- Effective June 27, 2025, nurses with a valid multistate license from a NLC participating state may enroll with Pennsylvania Medical Assistance without obtaining a separate license from Pennsylvania Department of State.
- Please take note of this update for your credentialing purposes and consider publicizing this to your credentialed providers who employ nurses.



PA Link Evaluation

- As part of Aging Our Way, PA, the Pennsylvania Department of Aging (PDA) is conducting an evaluation of the PA Link to inform the design of a strategic plan to improve and resign the program to better serve older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers.
- The entire project was informed by extensive stakeholder engagement, including consultation of an advisory committee.
- Please use the [Public Comment Form](#) to review the DRAFT Evaluation Report and DRAFT Recommendation report before providing a public comment.
- The public comment period will close on Monday, July 28, 2025 and all comments will be considered in the creation of the final strategic plan to refresh the PA Link.



Recent OLTL Communications

- Notice of Public Comment – Bed Exception Request
 - Participation Review Unit (PRU) is responsible for reviewing bed requests from providers who desire to enroll a new nursing facility in the Medical Assistance (MA) Program or increase the number of MA-certified beds at a participating nursing facility.
 - This notice serves to inform all interested parties of a bed request submitted by Schuylkill County.
 - Interested persons are invited to submit written comments regarding this notice to:
 - Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Department of Human Services
Office of Long-Term Living
Bureau of Fee-For-Service Programs
555 Walnut Street, Forum Place – 6th Floor
P.O. Box 8025
Harrisburg, PA 17101-8025
ATTN: Participation Review Unit
 - Written comments will also be received electronically at: RA-PartReview@pa.gov .
 - Comments received within 15 calendar days will be reviewed by DHS and considered for any subsequent revision on the notice.



➤ Recent OLTL Communications (cont.)

- OLTL Critical Incident Management - Change in OBRA Waiver Health and Welfare Measures
 - On June 20, 2025, OLTL released a Listserv communicating an update to the Health and Welfare Performance Measure #8 within Appendix G of the OBRA Waiver.
 - In accordance with this requirement, for any participant with more than three critical incidents within a 12-month period, **the Service Coordinator (SC) must perform an analysis (trend analysis) and take action as necessary to prevent or mitigate further incidents.**
 - The SC must commence the analysis and implement the actions to address potential issues related to the health and welfare of the Participant within the 30-day investigation period.
 - **The trend analysis document must be provided to a Critical Incident Management Unit (CIMU) team member for review upon request, and subsequently uploaded to the respective Enterprise Incident Management (EIM) entry upon completion and submission of the critical incident report's final section.**
 - For any questions regarding this change, please contact the CIMU via the resource account RA-OLTL_EIMimplement@pa.gov.

➤ Recent OLTL Communications (cont.)

- New Phone Application Option for Long-Term Care (LTC) and HCBS Participants
 - Effective Monday, June 16, 2025, the PA Consumer Service Center (Inspiritec) began accepting LTC and HCBS applications over the phone.
 - Individuals can call 1-866-550-4355 to apply for Medicaid, including LTC and HCBS. This information can be found on the [Apply for Benefits | Department of Human Services | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#) page.
 - Questions regarding this initiative can be directed to the DHS Helpline at 800-692-7462.



➤ Recent OLTL Communications (cont.)

- Reducing Scams, Fraud and Exploitation against Veterans
 - On June 23, 2025, OLTL shared a Listserv from the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) addressing financial scams and unscrupulous people seeking to profit from the benefits veterans have earned through their military service.
 - To safeguard this population, and reduce the likelihood of scams, fraud and exploitation, the DMVA released a [Pension Poaching Toolkit](#), filled with educational materials for you and your community to print and post, or continue sharing electronically.
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Issues Fraud Alert About Phishing Fax Requests
 - On June 23, 2025, OLTL released a Listserv regarding an [alert](#) about a fraud scheme that uses phishing fax requests, which falsely claim to be from CMS staff, to obtain medical records and documentation for auditing purposes.
 - CMS does not initiate audits by requesting medical records via fax and if you receive a suspicious request, do not respond.
 - If you have additional questions about this alert, please reach out to Karissa.Bjorkgren@cms.hhs.gov.



Questions/Public Comments

