

Office of Long-Term Living (OLTL) Updates

Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Subcommittee Meeting

September 03, 2025

Presenter: Juliet Marsala, Deputy Secretary



Pennsylvania
Department of Human Services

Agenda

- **OLTL Updates**
 - Procurement Updates
 - Recent OLTL Communications
 - Pennsylvania (PA) Long-Term Care (LTC) Learning Network Webinar
 - Increase of Test Positivity for COVID-19 in Pennsylvania (PA)
 - Foundational Leadership in Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Certificate Program
 - Federal Benefit Transition to Electronic Payments
 - Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) Manual Edits Noncompliance Medical Assistance Bulletin (MAB)
 - Nursing Facility Rate File Load Error and Corrective Actions
 - House of Representatives 1 (H.R. 1) / One Big Beautiful Bill (OB3)
 - HCBS Impacts Working Sessions

▶ OLTL Procurement Updates

- **Procurement Updates**

- Community HealthChoices (CHC) Request for Applications (RFAs)
 - 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 question regarding the RFA and its contents should be directed to Procurement via the resource account RA-pwrfaquestions@pa.gov.

Recent OLTL Communications

- **PA LTC Learning Network, Jewish HealthCare Foundation**

On August 21, 2025, OLTL released a ListServ communicating the upcoming webinar: Tobacco Recovery for Older Adults in Nursing Homes - scheduled for September 04, 2025, from 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

- To register for the ZOOM Webinar, [click here](#).
- Focus will be on Nursing Home Regulations and beyond.
 - Examine health risks related to tobacco use in older adults.
 - Discuss evidence-based tobacco recovery strategies.
 - Resources and clinical tools that support tobacco recovery will also be reviewed.
- Requested to complete a brief five-question survey found at this link: [pre-webinar survey](#).
- Reminder: Quarter 3 Learning Collaborative is September 25, 2025, from 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
 - Information will be provided in an upcoming ListServ.

➤ Recent OLTL Communications (cont.)

- **Late Summer COVID-19 Increase in PA**

On August 26, 2025, OLTL released a ListServ sharing the Health Advisory that there has been a sharp increase of test positivity for COVID-19 in PA.

- The current COVID-19 vaccine offers protection against circulating variants, including Nimbus and Stratus.
- The Department of Health (DOH) encourages people eligible to get the COVID vaccine now, especially those at higher risk rather than waiting for the updated fall formula.
- Nirmatrelvir-ritonavir (Paxlovid) remains effective in preventing severe illness and should be prescribed promptly to patients with additional risk factors, such as diabetes or Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).
- If you have questions about this advisory, please contact DOH at 1-877-PAHealth (1-877-724-3258) or your local health department.

➤ Recent OLTL Communications (cont..)

- **Foundational Leadership in HCBS Certificate Program**

On August 25, 2025, OLTL released a ListServ sharing an announcement from Advancing States stating that they have partnered with the Department of Policy and Management at the University of North Carolina (UNC) Gillings School of Global Public Health to create a first-of-its-kind online training program to support our Nations HCBS program workforce.

- The Initial Foundation Leadership in HCBS: Building Expertise to Better Support People in their Homes and Communities certificate program launches in September of 2025.
 - Core training sessions deliver curriculum covering HCBS systems, policies, and operations.
- The course is offered exclusively online and is self-paced.
 - It is anticipated that the course will require about two hours per week for 10 weeks to complete.
 - Participants will learn more about populations utilizing LTSS, the organizations providing LTSS, and the varied sources of funding.

➤ Recent OLTL Communications (cont...)

- **Foundational Leadership in HCBS Certificate Program (cont.)**
 - The focus will be on HCBS plus key policy areas including the Older Americans Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Medicare, Medicaid, and the process by which individuals access services.
 - **Fewer than 20 spots remain** in the September pilot session.
 - There will be **another session offered in January 2026**.
 - The course fee is \$600.00 for government and non-profit employees.
 - The course fee is \$1300.00 for corporate employees
 - We expect group registration opportunities will be available for the January 2026 session.
 - Quick Registration Links:
 - [Register for September Session](#)
 - [Join Waiting List for Future Sessions](#)
 - For questions about the HCBS Certificate program, contact Annie Kimbrel at akimbrel@advancingstates.org.



➤ Recent OLTL Communications (cont....)

- **Federal Benefit Transition to Electronic Payments**

On August 27, 2025, OLTL Adult Residential Licensing released a ListServ communicating upcoming changes for the federal government's benefit payment method for Personal Care Home (PCH) and Assisted Living Residence (ALR) residents and providers.

- All federal disbursements have been mandated to transition to electronic payment by September 30, 2025.
 - Starting October 01, 2025, recipients of federal benefits, such as Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (RSDI), Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and railroad or veterans' benefits, will no longer be eligible to receive paper checks

➤ Recent OLTL Communications (cont.....)

- **Federal Benefit Transition to Electronic Payments (cont.)**
 - There are very few exceptions:
 - Individuals 94 years of age who were born before May 01, 1921, will automatically continue to receive paper checks. The Social Security Administration (SSA) indicated that other exceptions will only be granted in “extremely rare circumstances”.
 - Two options available for electronic payment:
 - [Direct Express® Debit MasterCard®](#)
 - Direct Deposit
 - PCH and ALR providers and stakeholders are invited to join the OLTL’s Community Resource Coordinator team on September 10, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. for an overview of the change.
 - Please register for the Webinar using this link: [Webinar Registration](#)

➤ Recent OLTL Communications (cont.....)

- **Federal Benefit Transition to Electronic Payments – What Beneficiaries Receiving Paper Checks Need to Know**

On August 29, 2025, OLTL released a ListServ sharing information about the federal benefit transition to electronic payments to improve efficiency, security, and ensure that beneficiaries receive their monthly benefits promptly. The communication requested service coordinators to ensure assistance is provided to participants who need it to alleviate potential negative impact.

- Who does this affect?
 - This primarily affects a small group of beneficiaries who have not yet switched to electronic payment methods.
- Why the shift to electronic payments?
 - Speed and Efficiency
 - Cost Savings
 - Enhanced Security

➤ Recent OLTL Communications (cont.....)

- **Federal Benefit Transition to Electronic Payments – What Beneficiaries Receiving Paper Checks Need to Know (cont.)**
 - Your payment options include:
 - Direct Deposit: Beneficiaries should enroll in direct deposit with their financial institution where their payments can be deposited directly into their checking or savings account
 - Direct Express® Card: This is for people without a bank account. The Direct Express card is a prepaid debit card designed specifically for federal benefit payments.
 - Social Security recipients can update their payment information anytime through the [my Social Security](https://www.ssa.gov/myaccount/) account online.
 - <https://www.ssa.gov/myaccount/>
 - Any recipient of federal benefits can update their payment method by visiting <https://godirect.gov/gpw>

➤ Recent OLTL Communications (cont.....)

- **Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) Manual Edits Noncompliance in the Fee-for-Service (FFS) and Managed Care Delivery Systems Medical Assistance Bulletin (MAB)**

On August 29, 2025, the Department of Human Services (Department) published the EVV Manual Edits Noncompliance in the FFS and Managed Care Delivery Systems MAB.

- The purpose of this bulletin is to inform providers how the Department will enforce compliance with EVV requirements and remind providers of existing EVV resources.
- This bulletin applies to providers enrolled in the Medical Assistance (MA) program who render Personal Care Services (PCS) and Home Healthcare Services (HHCS) to participants in:
 - The Office of Developmental Programs' (ODP) Adult Autism Waiver, Community Living Waiver, Consolidated Waiver, Person/Family Directed Support Waiver, and Base Funded Program,
 - OLTL's OBRA Waiver, Act 150 Program, and Community HealthChoices Waiver, or

➤ Recent OLTL Communications (cont.....)

- **Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) Manual Edits Noncompliance in the Fee-for-Service (FFS) and Managed Care Delivery Systems Medical Assistance Bulletin (MAB) (cont.)**
 - The Office of Medical Assistance Programs' (OMAP) MA FFS and Physical HealthChoices Program.
 - Beginning in January 2026, the Department will begin issuing EVV alerts to MCOs and providers whose EVV manual entry percentages exceed 15% for the previous quarter, requesting corrective action plans for non-compliant providers in two consecutive quarters, and applying sanctions if found appropriate, in accordance with the applicable program office requirements and MA regulations.
 - This bulletin explains the procedures for Notification of Compliance Status as well procedures for Monitoring and Compliance of FFS providers, MCOs, and Participant Directed Services.
 - To link directly to the bulletin: [MAB2025082901](#)
 - To link to the Bulletin Search: [Bulletin Search | Department of Human Services | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)

➤ Recent OLTL Communications (cont.....)

- **Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) Manual Edits Noncompliance in the Fee-for-Service (FFS) and Managed Care Delivery Systems Medical Assistance Bulletin (MAB) (cont.)**
 - Comments and questions regarding this bulleting should be directed to:
 - FFS provider service center: 1-800-537-8862
 - Physical and CHC providers should address any questions regarding EVV to the applicable MCO.
 - Visit the OMAP Website at:
<https://www.pa.gov/en/agencies/dhs/resources/for-providers/ma-for-providers/contact-information-for-ma-providers.html>

▶ Recent OLTL Communications (cont.....)

- **Nursing Facility Rate File Load Error and Corrective Actions**

On September 02, 2025, OLTL issued an important notice to the nursing facilities ListServ explaining that rate file errors were discovered for rates loaded into PROMISe™ with effective dates of 07/01/2024 through 09/30/2024, 10/01/2024 through 12/31/2024, 01/01/2025 through 03/31/2025, and 04/01/2025 through 06/30/2025. This resulted in incorrect payments.

- To remediate the error, corrective rate files will be loaded into PROMISe™ beginning the week of 09/02/2025 and rates files for 07/01/2025 through 12/31/2299 will be loaded into PROMISe™ beginning the week of 09/10/2025.
- Questions regarding this notice, please contact the OLTL Provider Operations Section at RA-ProviderOperation@pa.gov or 1-800-932-0939

Questions / Public Comments

