



Office of Long-Term Living (OLTL) Updates

Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Subcommittee Meeting

November 12, 2025

Presenter: Juliet Marsala, Deputy Secretary



Pennsylvania
Department of Human Services

Agenda

- OLTL Updates
 - Procurement Updates
 - Provider Enrollment Reminders
 - Medical Director Reminders
 - Personal Care Assistant (PCA) Accommodations Guidance Public Comment
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Work and Reporting Requirements Communication & Outreach Toolkit
 - Medicare Annual Open Enrollment
 - Rural Health Transformation Program
 - 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.**



➤ Provider Enrollment Reminders

- **Revalidation:** Please review your enrollment revalidation dates and ensure timely revalidation.
- **Provider Enrollment Profiles:** Update enrollment profiles ongoing.
- **Department of Health (DOH) Provider Licensure:** DOH licensure renewals are required for ongoing Medicaid enrollment. If there is a lapse, then the provider will be terminated from OLTL Medicaid Enrollment. A valid license is a qualification requirement for OLTL programs.

Provider Enrollment Team: RA-HCBSEnProv@pa.gov

Provider Support Team: RA-ProviderOperation@pa.gov

OLTL Provider Operations: 1-800-932-0939

Medical Director Reminders

- October marked the start of flu season, and while it typically peaks between December and February, the respiratory illness is already going around.
 - The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and others all agree: Everyone six months and older, with rare exceptions, should get a flu vaccine every season.
 - Influenza vaccines have cut flu-associated outpatient visits and hospitalizations by half during the Southern Hemisphere's 2025 flu season – This is “Better than Usual.”
 - Of those hospitalized in the Southern Hemisphere, only 15.9% were vaccinated.

➤ PCA Accommodations Public Comment

- The Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC) is collecting public comment on proposed guidance clarifying how the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act applies to the admission of PCAs accompanying individuals with disabilities at public accommodations and commercial properties.
 - The proposed guidance explains when the PHRC may consider it to be a reasonable accommodation for entities to provide PCAs free or discounted admission, ensuring that individuals with disabilities have equal opportunity to participate in public life.
 - **Public comments via an online survey will be accepted from October 6, 2025, to November 25, 2025.**
 - For more information or to submit public comment, visit [Personal Care Assistant Accommodations Guidance | Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)



➤ SNAP Work and Reporting Requirements Toolkit

- The Department of Human Services (DHS) has developed a communications toolkit to help Pennsylvanians understand changes to the SNAP program taking place because of the budget bill passed by Congressional Republicans and signed into law by President Trump on July 4, 2025.
 - With these changes, some SNAP recipients now must meet work requirements and report to the Pennsylvania DHS that they are meeting this requirement.
 - If SNAP recipients are not meeting this requirement, they will be limited to three months of SNAP benefits for a three-year period.
 - DHS' goal is to make sure Pennsylvanians stay connected to life-sustaining nutrition assistance to help them feed themselves and their families.
 - Various resources have been made available on the DHS website at [SNAP Toolkit | Department of Human Services | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#).



➤ Medicare Annual Open Enrollment

- Medicare Annual Open Enrollment Period Began October 15, 2025. PA Medicare Education and Decision Insight (MEDI) Counselors Are Here to Help
 - The annual open enrollment period for Medicare beneficiaries began October 15, 2025, and PA MEDI counselors can assist new and current beneficiaries with selecting a new coverage plan or making changes to existing benefits.
 - During open enrollment, new Medicare beneficiaries can sign up for Medicare Prescription Drug coverage and health plans to complement Medicare, and current Medicare beneficiaries can review and join, switch, or drop Medicare Advantage or Prescription Drug Coverage so that it better meets their needs.
 - PA MEDI counselors provide free, objective health benefits counseling through the 52 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs).
 - For more information visit the [Department of Aging's website](#) or call the PA MEDI Helpline at 1-800-783-7067.



➤ Rural Health Transformation Program

- The Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program was authorized by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act and empowers states to strengthen rural communities across America by improving healthcare access, quality, and outcomes by transforming the healthcare delivery ecosystem.
 - The Trump Administration set five primary goals and requirements for RHT Program applications and initiatives, including:
 - Making Rural America Healthy Again;
 - Sustainable access;
 - Workforce development;
 - Innovative care; and,
 - Technological innovation.
 - The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a Notice of Funding Opportunity on September 15, 2025. Proposals were due November 5, 2025, and awardee decisions are expected to be announced by the end of the year.

➤ Rural Health Transformation Program (cont.)

- RHT Program funding is \$50 billion to be allocated to approved States over five fiscal years, with \$10 billion of funding available each fiscal year, beginning in fiscal year 2026 and ending in fiscal year 2030.
- Pennsylvania's goals are to:
 - Improve access to care and outcomes
 - Use technology to drive innovation
 - Expand partnerships for change
 - Create a robust workforce to address regional need
 - Use data-driven solutions
 - Implement financial sustainability strategies.
- Initiatives to achieve these goals will span technology & infrastructure, workforce, maternal health, behavioral health, aging and access, and EMS and transportation.
- As this process moves forward, we will share more information about Pennsylvania's RHT Program initiatives.

Recent OLTL Communications

- Medical Assistance (MA) Nursing Facility (NF) Bed Hold Reports (Hospital Reserved Bed Days)
 - DHS has added the quarterly **MA NF Bed Hold Reports** (Hospital Reserved Bed Days) for the most recent Rate Quarters to the [Long-Term Nursing Facilities](#) website under **Additional Resources**.
 - This information is also located on the last page of each MA NF's Case-Mix Interim report for the application picture date under the section titled, **Payment for Hospital Reserved Bed Days**.
 - The criteria regarding a nursing facility's eligibility for payment for hospital reserved bed days can be found at [§ 1187.104. Limitations on payment for reserved beds](#).
 - For further information, please read the *Resident Data Reporting Manual*, which can be found on the [Long-Term Nursing Facilities](#) website.
 - Please contact Ruth Anne Barnard (rbarnard@pa.gov) with any questions or concerns

➤ Recent OLTL Communications (cont.)

- The Pennsylvania DHS is launching [Human Services Helpers](#), a Substack that will cover updates on DHS programs, news from the agency, and how organizations and partners can help their communities.
 - Specifically, as DHS implements changes required by the federal government under HR1, Human Services Helpers will share resources and tips to help Pennsylvanians affected by these changes understand what is happening and what they must do to keep their benefits.
 - News on the federal government shutdown and its impact on programs like SNAP and Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) will also be shared through this platform.
 - Substack is an online platform for creators to publish content like newsletters, podcasts, and videos. It allows writers and other content creators to build a direct relationship with their audience and provides the infrastructure for sending content via email.
 - [Sign up for updates today and be a helper for PA](#)



Questions/Public Comments

