

October 1, 2025 Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Subcommittee Meeting Follow-Up Items

1. **Related to the Personal Care Services (PAS) rate increases**, audience member Tom Earl asked at the September LTSS meeting if there was an update regarding the letter that was sent to the governor requesting consideration for a rate increase for PAS.

The Office of Long-Term Living (OLTL) requires additional time to provide a response. This question and response will be added to a future LTSS Follow-Up document.

2. **Related to participant assessments**, audience member Jeff Iseman asked how ageism may impact the assessment of its individuals of long-term care, particularly for home and community-based settings, or their ability to live in a community.

Randy Nolen, Bureau Director of Coordinated Integrated Services, responded that, as part of their training, the Area Agencies on Aging assessors and Community HealthChoices (CHC) Service Coordinators (SC) are educated on ageism, racism, and other Social Determinants of Health as well as how to address them with the participant during the assessment process.

3. **Regarding Direct Care Worker credentialing**, audience member Jeff Iseman asked if OLTL has any perspectives on credentialing for direct care workers in all three Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) programs (CHC, OBRA Waivers, and Act 150 programs).

Megan Brandt, Section Chief of Division of Provider Operations, responded that OLTL has been in discussions with other program offices regarding enrolling all rendering providers, but are still in the early stages.

4. **Related to Version 10 interRAI**, subcommittee member Carol Marfisi asked how CHC-MCOs ensure the issues of ageism and ableism do not conflict with the consumer's wishes and preferences as identified and incorporated in their care plan.

AmeriHealth/Keystone First responded that age is not used as a factor to limit or influence service planning. They focus on each Participant's individual needs, preferences, and goals as identified in their Person-Centered Service Plan (PCSP). SCs are trained to support Participants in making their own choices and to ensure that all services respect their independence. The SCs use the interRAI to look at a Participant's

abilities/functioning by assessing their needs, strengths, and preferences. Regardless of age or abilities, the SCs involve the Participants in the assessment process through participant-centered interviews, which ensures an emphasis on quality of life and participant-centered care, when developing their goals.

PA Health & Wellness responded that the interRAI assessment is primarily an objective assessment that assesses their Activities of Daily Living (ADL)/ Independent ADL needs, barriers, and capabilities. These needs and barriers are identified and incorporated along with the Participant's wishes and preferences regarding their care, when building the PCSP. Any concerns about ageism and ableism would be addressed when the SC collaborates with the Participant and their selected Person-Centered planning teams. The aim of the interRAI is to remain objective and reflect ability.

UPMC responded that SCs are trained to develop the PCSP with the Participant and their chosen Person-Centered Planning Team (PCPT). The PCSP is created to meet the needs and preferences of the Participant which may include community integration activities and employment. UPMC SCs encourage Participants to take ownership of their plans through establishing the Participant's personal goals and priorities. The focus of the planning process is supporting independence and ownership for Participants.

Marcia Mikos, Office of Income Maintenance (OIM)

5. **Related to Work Requirements**, David Burnett (dburnett@pasen.gov) asked at the September LTSS meeting if there is any intent to pursue a Good-Faith waiver of the work requirements under the new Medicaid restrictions.

The DHS has not yet discussed applying for a waiver as those changes do not go into effect until 2027. DHS is focusing efforts on the changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) at this time.