



2022 HCBA Waiver Renewal Technical Workgroup Meeting #3

Department of Health Care Services
February 26, 2021



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WebEx Housekeeping Recap

- Technical Workgroup Members are logged in as panelists and can mute/unmute at will
 - Please mute your line when you are not speaking
- Use the “raise hand” function if you wish to speak and un-raise your hand after speaking
- Wait to be recognized by the WebEx facilitator before speaking
- Please limit comments to 2 to 3 minutes to ensure everyone has a chance to speak



WebEx Housekeeping Recap

- This meeting is being recorded
- To send a message to the WebEx facilitator, or other workgroup members, use the “Chat” function by clicking the speech bubble icon at the bottom of the screen
- Public attendees will enter the meeting on mute
- There will be time for public input at the end of the meeting and instructions for the public input open forum will be provided at that time



WebEx Housekeeping Recap

If you experience technical difficulties during today's WebEx Event, send an email to the HCBA inbox at HCBAAlternatives@dhcs.ca.gov for assistance



Agenda

Topic
Workgroup Charter
Focus
Recap of Workgroup 2 and Breakout Sessions
Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement
Technical Workgroup Recommendations
Public Open Forum
Next Steps and Closing



Technical Workgroup Scope and Deliverables

SCOPE:

What works well in the Waiver?

Where are opportunities for improvements?

How can DHCS improve California's overall HCBS strategy, across all Medi-Cal systems of care?

DELIVERABLE:

Provide DHCS with Technical Workgroup recommendations for changes to the HCBA Waiver by the end of the Workgroup Series



Focus of Technical Workgroup Meeting #3

- Review the workgroup's recommendations for the HCBA waiver renewal
- Discuss how the workgroup recommendations might be implemented and where additional information is required
- Give workgroup members an opportunity to clarify/correct recommendations

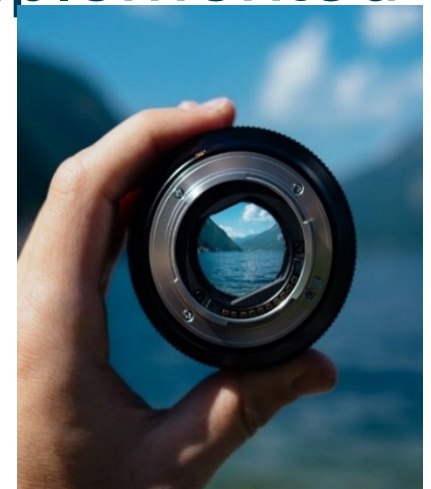


Image on pixabay



Recap of December Technical Workgroup Meeting

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Breakout Sessions



Technical Workgroup #2

Take Aways

- Address WPCS restrictions through advocacy at the federal level
- Align expectations for care coordination between WAs, MCPs, Mental/Behavioral Health, etc.
- Streamline participant and provider enrollment processes
- Children's needs and experiences are different from adults enrolled in the waiver
- Workgroup members requested more time to discuss more complex topics



Breakout Sessions Take Away

- Session 1:
 - Care Coordination
 - Private Duty Nursing
 - Needs of Pediatric Participants
- Session 2:
 - Integration of Assisted Living Waiver and/or Services
- Session 3:
 - Waiver Personal Care Services (WPCS)
 - WPCS Overtime Exemption Requests
 - Administrative and Structural Issues



Commitment to Ongoing Stakeholder Process

- Through this waiver renewal technical workgroup process, DHCS has recognized the need for ongoing stakeholder engagement beyond the renewal of the HCBA Waiver
- DHCS commits to holding regular and ongoing stakeholder engagement meetings to continue to receive input on the HCBA and Assisted Living Waiver from participants, providers, and partners across the State's systems of care.



Technical Workgroup Recommendations



Technical Workgroup Recommendations that would Require a Waiver Change

- Use of BSW supervised by MSW in WA CMTs
- Provide, limited, one-time home set-up costs for community enrollees
- Allow the Under-21 population to receive Habilitation and Respite services
- Remove Transition Coordination from the CCM PMPM
- More clearly define the “Circle of Support”
- Remove requirement for Physical Therapists to assess home modifications for approval
- Include more specific requirements for WAs to collaborate with Managed Care Plans (MCPs) for better coordination of care



Technical Workgroup Recommendations that would Require a Waiver Change, *Continued*

- Prioritize for intake processing:
 - Homeless population
 - Community-based beneficiaries at imminent risk of institutionalization
 - Community-based beneficiaries with sub-acute level of care needs
- Allow participants to enroll without a signed POT
- Add assistive devices as a waiver service
- Adjust CLHF rates based on the cost of living within the county/region
- Add meals, DME, and transportation as Waiver services when not available elsewhere
- Make WPCS identical to IHSS, including paramedical exemptions
- Create a paramedical service under the waiver (separate from WPCS)



Technical Workgroup Recommendations that would Require a Waiver Change, *Continued*

- Fully integrate the ALW through the HCBA Waiver Renewal *
- Integrate the ALW after HCBA Waiver Renewal to engage stakeholders for additional input *
- Add assisted living as an HCBA waiver service
- Discontinue tiered CM acuity levels used for CCM PMPM
- Allow parents of minor children and spouses to receive payment for providing WPCS to their dependents
- Examine adding students and adults with developmental disabilities as potential WPCS providers
- Allow virtual assessments beyond PHE

* If ALW is integrated into HCBA, additional slots must be added to ensure open HCBA slots are not filled with beneficiaries on the ALW waitlist



Technical Workgroup Discussion



Stakeholder Recommendations that would Not Require a Waiver Change

- DHCS should convene regular and ongoing waiver stakeholder meetings
- Develop standard, minimum requirements for WA/MCP MOUs
- Create intake screening and enrollment time frames for WAs
- Include social isolation and loneliness in assessments
- Require WAs to continue to search for providers when licensed parents or spouses receive an exemption to provide licensed services to their child or partner when no other providers are available
- Require WAs to continue to search for providers when WPCS overtime exemptions are approved



Stakeholder Recommendations that would Not Require a Waiver Change, *continued*

- Implement an appeal process for WPCS overtime exemptions denials
- Have DHCS provide regular training on the Waiver to Public Authorities, County Medical Offices, MCPs, etc.
- Improve DHCS oversight of intake processing prioritization and waitlists
- Improve support for youth aging out of EPSDT for continuity of care
- Allow NMT under one-time home set-up when required to secure housing
- Clearly define the difference between Acute and Sub-Acute CLHF Tiers
- Increase WAs' functionality within MedCompass



Stakeholder Recommendations that would Not Require a Waiver Change, *continued*

- Include requirements for Managed Care Plans to collaborate with WAs in MCP contracts
- Explore care coordination apps and platforms available in private sector
- Create a statewide referral platform that crosses all systems of care and providers
- Have DHCS maintain a WA directory with names and contact information
- Create a system indicator for Waiver participants
- Improve WAs' access to participants' data across Medi-Cal systems of care
- Allow WAs to provide services in overlapping service areas
- Expand the use of habilitation services



Stakeholder Recommendations that would Not Require a Waiver Change, *continued*

- Move the enrollment date to the date of the assessment, or allow retroactive enrollment
- Create a mid-month participant transfer reimbursement process for WAs
- Allow WAs to pay and claim reimbursement on behalf of providers
- Address the gap in services upon a beneficiary's 21st birthday
- Ensure participants get the mental health and substance abuse care they need
- Expand the number of HCBA Waiver Agencies



Technical Workgroup Discussion



Public Input Open Forum



Graphic by Aleandra Koch on pixabay



Public Open Forum

- If you are a member of the public and would like to make a comment during the Open Forum session:
 - Use the “raise hand” function to indicate you want to make a comment
 - The “raise hand” function can be found on the participant panel on the right side of the screen
 - Members of the public will be identified to speak in the order in which their hands are raised, and the host will announce when the speaker’s line is unmuted
 - Please limit comments to 1 to 2 minutes to help ensure everyone has an opportunity to provide input
 - Un-raise your hand after you have spoken by clicking the hand again

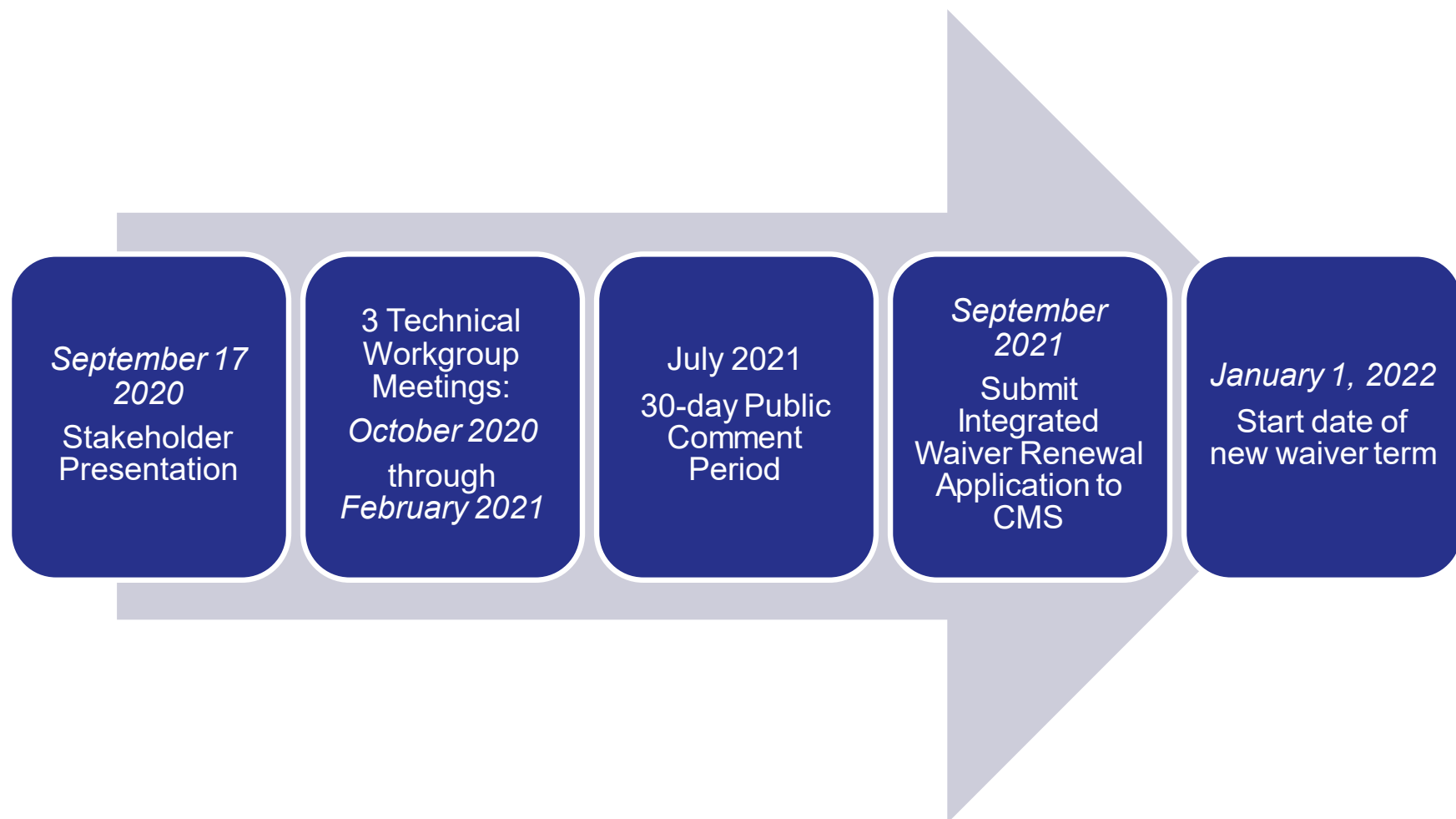


Written Feedback

- If we were unable to call on you to speak during today's event, or if you would like to submit additional input in writing, please email your comments to the HCBA Waiver inbox at HCBAAlternatives@dhcs.ca.gov, using the *HCBA Waiver Renewal Public Feedback* form available on the [DHCS website](#)
- To ensure your feedback can be considered with the Technical Workgroup's recommendations to the Department, please submit your comments no later than **March 5, 2021**



Waiver Renewal Timeline





Next Steps

1. DHCS will distribute a final summary of today's workgroup and any written feedback received by March 5, by April 2
2. DHCS will take under consideration the recommendations/feedback received from this workgroup and other public stakeholders while preparing the 2022 HCBA Waiver renewal application
3. The waiver renewal application will be posted for a 30-day public comment period by July 2021
4. DHCS will make final updates to the waiver renewal application after reviewing the public comments
5. The waiver renewal application will be submitted to CMS no later than September 30, 2021
6. Pending CMS' approval, the new 5-year HCBA Waiver term will begin no earlier than January 1, 2022



For More Information

DHCS

- <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/>

HCBA

- [https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/ltc/Pages/Home-and-Community-Based-\(HCB\)-Alternatives-Waiver.aspx](https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/ltc/Pages/Home-and-Community-Based-(HCB)-Alternatives-Waiver.aspx)

Waiver
Renewal

- <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/ltc/Pages/HCBA-Waiver-Renewal.aspx>

Please submit questions about the HCBA Waiver renewal to: HCBAAlternatives@dhcs.ca.gov