



Home and Community-Based Alternatives Waiver Renewal: 30-day Public Comment Period

Department of Health Care Services
August 24, 2021



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Housekeeping

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



Housekeeping

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

- 30,000 ft. Overview of the HCBA Waiver
- Renewal Process and Public Engagement
- Changes to the HCBA Waiver
- 30-Day Public Comment Period
- Timeline and Next Steps
- Questions and Answers

* There will be a short, 5-minute break around 3:00 p.m.



30,000 ft. Overview



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30,000 ft. Overview

- Under Section 1915(c) of the SSA, states submit HCBS waiver applications to CMS for initial authorization, and every 5-years for renewal
- Waivers compliment / supplement, and do not replace / duplicate, services provided under the Medicaid State Plan
- Current HCBA Waiver term ends 12/31/21 – next Waiver term is 1/01/22 – 12/31/26



30,000 ft. Overview, contd.

Goals:

1. Protect health, welfare, and safety of participants in the community
2. Person-centered
3. Freedom of choice
4. Institutional diversion and/or transitions
5. Cost neutrality



30,000 ft. Overview, contd.

- HCBA Waiver Provides care management services to persons at risk for nursing home or institutional placement
- Multidisciplinary team provides care management services, coordinates waiver and State Plan services, and arranges for other long-term services and supports available in the local community
- Waiver services must be authorized based on medical necessity



Renewal Process and Public Engagement



Image by Alexandra Koch on pixabay



1915(c) Waiver Renewal Public Engagement Requirements

- CMS' requirements:
 - Two forms of public notice, one print and one electronic
 - 30-day Public Comment Period
 - Record of public comments and State's response within the waiver



DHCS's Waiver Renewal Public Engagement

1. Waiver Renewal Public Kick-off Webinar
2. Technical Workgroup Series
 - Three webinars and four breakout sessions
3. Public notices
 - Public Register, DHCS webpage, scheduled DHCS stakeholder announcements, and email notifications through list serves, and sister programs
4. 30-Day Public Comment Period
5. Today's webinar to present changes included in the Waiver renewal application



Stakeholder Technical Workgroup Representatives

Purpose

Create a Waiver that continues to meet the evolving needs of California's population by bringing the experience and voices of all stakeholders into the discussion

Representatives

1. Participants and Family Members
2. Associations and Advocates
3. Waiver Agencies
4. HCBS Providers
5. Managed Care Plans



30-Day Public Comment Period

- Full text of the proposed 2022 HCBA Waiver renewal is posted in two formats, at: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/ltc/Pages/HCB A-Waiver-Renewal.aspx>
- To submit feedback to DHCS in response to the renewal application:
 - Use the [comment form](#) posted on the webpage
 - Include: “**HCBA Waiver Renewal Public Comment**” in the Subject line.
 - Email comments to: HCBAalternatives@dhcs.ca.gov
 - Public comments can also be submitted by mail, to the address available on the renewal webpage



Changes to the Waiver



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Changes to the HCBA Waiver

1. Allow BSWs (& related fields of study) to provide CCM with an RN, when supervised by an MSW
2. Expand home set-up to individuals enrolling from the community
3. Removed age restrictions for Habilitation and Respite services
4. Added PDHC as Respite and PDN service providers



Changes to the HCBA Waiver, contd.

5. Removed Transition Coordination from the CCM PMPM payment
6. Defined Direct Care Services
7. Clarified the role of the Circle of Support
8. Included telehealth as an alternative to in-person assessments/visits, when clinically appropriate and pre-approved by DHCS



Changes to the HCBA Waiver, contd.

9. Included more detailed language concerning the coordination of care with managed care plans
10. Added assistive technology as a Waiver service
11. Added paramedical services as an extended state plan service



Changes to the HCBA Waiver, contd.

Administrative updates:

- Removed outdated/inaccurate content throughout
- Updated document retention 3 to 10 years
- Direct care providers must be enrolled in Medi-Cal before providing services
- Waiver is payer of last resort
- Explicit requirement for Waiver Agencies to provide emergency data/reports, as requested – including weekends



Changes to the HCBA Waiver, contd.

Administrative updates, contd.:

- Included high-level, placeholder language for Electronic Visit Verification, and financial sanctions
- Require ongoing documentation of efforts to find service providers when exemptions are approved (e.g., overtime, case management & direct services, licensed family member)
- Updated performance measures and Quality Assurance Review (QAR) frequency



Post-Renewal Amendment

- Integration of HCBA and the Assisted Living Waiver (ALW)
 - Align with end date of current ALW term, February 28, 2024
 - Convene ongoing stakeholder workgroups to inform integration:
 - Assessment tools
 - Statewide provider expansion
 - Roles and oversight



Changes that Can be Made Outside of the Waiver

- Appeal process for WPCS overtime denials
- Rate increases (state budget process)
- Streamline intake
- Separation between lines of business (Waiver Agency contract)
- Provider Network Adequacy Measures
- Develop and provide training to the WAs on the unique needs of the pediatric population
- EVV and STP oversight
- Increase Waiver Agency functionality in MedCompass
- Increase DHCS' training, oversight, and corrective actions



Changes that Can be Made Outside of the Waiver, contd.

- Better linkages and collaboration between Waiver Agencies and:
 - Managed Care Plans
 - IHSS Public Authorities
 - County Medi-Cal Eligibility Offices
 - County Behavioral Health
 - CCS
 - Regional Centers
- Expanding the number of Waiver Agencies
- Allow Waiver Agencies to administer the Waiver in overlapping service areas
- Allow Waiver Agencies to subcontract with other Waiver Agencies for CCM and/or intake functions – with DHCS' approval



Recommendations Not Accepted for the Waiver Renewal

1. Adding new sub-populations for prioritized intake processing
2. Allow enrollment without a signed POT
3. Allowing parents of minor children and spouses to be paid for providing personal care
4. Adding Assisted Living Services, prior to Waiver integration



Recommendations Not Accepted for the Waiver Renewal

5. Disconnect Acuity from Comprehensive Care Payment
6. Add meal and transportation services, for when they are not available through the State Plan
7. Move enrollment date to the date of the assessment (i.e., retroactive enrollment)
8. Allow Waiver Agencies to enroll applicants into the Waiver



Recommendations Not Accepted for the Waiver Renewal

9. Allow Waiver Agencies to claim on behalf of providers before a provider is enrolled in Medi-Cal
10. Create a mid-month participant transfer reimbursement process for Waiver Agencies
11. Integrate the Waiver into managed care



Timeline and Next Steps



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HCBA Waiver Renewal Timeline

- August 16, 2021: Waiver posted for a 30-day public comment period
- Today: Webinar to walk through changes
- **September 16, 2021: Last day to submit public comments**
- September 17 - 30, 2021: DHCS incorporates stakeholder feedback
- October 1, 2021: DHCS submits waiver renewal application to CMS
- January 1, 2022: Start date of new waiver term



Questions and Answers

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Questions and Answers

- Use the “raise hand” function to indicate you have a question,
 - The “raise hand” button is in the participant panel on the right side of the screen
- DHCS will identify speakers and unmute their lines, in the order in which each hand was raised
 - Keep questions to 1 to 2 minutes
- Un-raise your hand after you have asked you have spoken by clicking the hand again



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