

256B.49 HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICE WAIVERS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 1Sp2001 c 9 art 3 s 76]

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1Sp2001 c 9 art 3 s 76]

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1Sp2001 c 9 art 3 s 76]

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1Sp2001 c 9 art 3 s 76]

Subd. 5. [Repealed, 1Sp2001 c 9 art 3 s 76]

Subd. 6. [Repealed, 1Sp2001 c 9 art 3 s 76]

Subd. 7. [Repealed, 1Sp2001 c 9 art 3 s 76]

Subd. 8. [Repealed, 1Sp2001 c 9 art 3 s 76]

Subd. 9. [Repealed, 1Sp2001 c 9 art 3 s 76]

Subd. 10. [Repealed, 1Sp2001 c 9 art 3 s 76]

Subd. 11. **Authority.** (a) The commissioner is authorized to apply for home and community-based service waivers, as authorized under section 1915(c) of the Social Security Act to serve persons under the age of 65 who are determined to require the level of care provided in a nursing home and persons who require the level of care provided in a hospital. The commissioner shall apply for the home and community-based waivers in order to:

- (1) promote the support of persons with disabilities in the most integrated settings;
- (2) expand the availability of services for persons who are eligible for medical assistance;
- (3) promote cost-effective options to institutional care; and
- (4) obtain federal financial participation.

(b) The provision of waived services to medical assistance recipients with disabilities shall comply with the requirements outlined in the federally approved applications for home and community-based services and subsequent amendments, including provision of services according to a service plan designed to meet the needs of the individual. For purposes of this section, the approved home and community-based application is considered the necessary federal requirement.

(c) The commissioner shall provide interested persons serving on agency advisory committees, task forces, the Centers for Independent Living, and others who request to be on a list to receive, notice of, and an opportunity to comment on, at least 30 days before any effective dates, (1) any substantive changes to the state's disability services program manual, or (2) changes or amendments to the federally approved applications for home and community-based waivers, prior to their submission to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

(d) The commissioner shall seek approval, as authorized under section 1915(c) of the Social Security Act, to allow medical assistance eligibility under this section for children under age 21 without deeming of parental income or assets.

(e) The commissioner shall seek approval, as authorized under section 1915(c) of the Social Act, to allow medical assistance eligibility under this section for individuals under age 65 without deeming the spouse's income or assets.

(f) The commissioner shall comply with the requirements in the federally approved transition plan for the home and community-based services waivers authorized under this section.

Subd. 11a. **Waivered services statewide priorities.** (a) The commissioner shall establish statewide priorities for individuals on the waiting list for community alternative care, community access for disability inclusion, and brain injury waiver services, as of January 1, 2010. The statewide priorities must include, but are not limited to, individuals who continue to have a need for waiver services after they have maximized the use of state plan services and other funding resources, including natural supports, prior to accessing waiver services, and who meet at least one of the following criteria:

- (1) no longer require the intensity of services provided where they are currently living; or
- (2) make a request to move from an institutional setting.

(b) After the priorities in paragraph (a) are met, priority must also be given to individuals who meet at least one of the following criteria:

- (1) have unstable living situations due to the age, incapacity, or sudden loss of the primary caregivers;
- (2) are moving from an institution due to bed closures;
- (3) experience a sudden closure of their current living arrangement;
- (4) require protection from confirmed abuse, neglect, or exploitation;
- (5) experience a sudden change in need that can no longer be met through state plan services or other funding resources alone; or
- (6) meet other priorities established by the department.

(c) When allocating resources to lead agencies, the commissioner must take into consideration the number of individuals waiting who meet statewide priorities and the lead agencies' current use of waiver funds and existing service options. The commissioner has the authority to transfer funds between counties, groups of counties, and tribes to accommodate statewide priorities and resource needs while accounting for a necessary base level reserve amount for each county, group of counties, and tribe.

Subd. 12. **Informed choice.** Persons who are determined likely to require the level of care provided in a nursing facility as determined under section 256B.0911, subdivision 4e, or a hospital shall be informed of the home and community-based support alternatives to the provision of inpatient hospital services or nursing facility services. Each person must be given the choice of either institutional or home and community-based services using the provisions described in section 256B.77, subdivision 2, paragraph (p).

Subd. 13. **Case management.** (a) Each recipient of a home and community-based waiver shall be provided case management services by qualified vendors as described in the federally approved waiver application. The case management service activities provided must include:

- (1) finalizing the written coordinated service and support plan within the timelines established by the commissioner and section 256B.0911, subdivision 3a, paragraph (e);
- (2) informing the recipient or the recipient's legal guardian or conservator of service options;

(3) assisting the recipient in the identification of potential service providers and available options for case management service and providers, including services provided in a non-disability-specific setting;

(4) assisting the recipient to access services and assisting with appeals under section 256.045; and

(5) coordinating, evaluating, and monitoring of the services identified in the service plan.

(b) The case manager may delegate certain aspects of the case management service activities to another individual provided there is oversight by the case manager. The case manager may not delegate those aspects which require professional judgment including:

(1) finalizing the coordinated service and support plan;

(2) ongoing assessment and monitoring of the person's needs and adequacy of the approved coordinated service and support plan; and

(3) adjustments to the coordinated service and support plan.

(c) Case management services must be provided by a public or private agency that is enrolled as a medical assistance provider determined by the commissioner to meet all of the requirements in the approved federal waiver plans. Case management services must not be provided to a recipient by a private agency that has any financial interest in the provision of any other services included in the recipient's coordinated service and support plan. For purposes of this section, "private agency" means any agency that is not identified as a lead agency under section 256B.0911, subdivision 1a, paragraph (e).

(d) For persons who need a positive support transition plan as required in chapter 245D, the case manager shall participate in the development and ongoing evaluation of the plan with the expanded support team. At least quarterly, the case manager, in consultation with the expanded support team, shall evaluate the effectiveness of the plan based on progress evaluation data submitted by the licensed provider to the case manager. The evaluation must identify whether the plan has been developed and implemented in a manner to achieve the following within the required timelines:

(1) phasing out the use of prohibited procedures;

(2) acquisition of skills needed to eliminate the prohibited procedures within the plan's timeline; and

(3) accomplishment of identified outcomes.

If adequate progress is not being made, the case manager shall consult with the person's expanded support team to identify needed modifications and whether additional professional support is required to provide consultation.

Subd. 14. Assessment and reassessment. (a) Assessments and reassessments shall be conducted by certified assessors according to section 256B.0911, subdivision 2b. The certified assessor, with the permission of the recipient or the recipient's designated legal representative, may invite other individuals to attend the assessment. With the permission of the recipient or the recipient's designated legal representative, the recipient's current provider of services may submit a written report outlining their recommendations regarding the recipient's care needs prepared by a direct service employee who is familiar with the person. The provider must submit the report at least 60 days before the end of the person's current service agreement. The certified assessor must consider the content of the submitted report prior to finalizing the person's assessment or reassessment.

(b) There must be a determination that the client requires a hospital level of care or a nursing facility level of care as defined in section 256B.0911, subdivision 4e, at initial and subsequent assessments to initiate and maintain participation in the waiver program.

(c) Regardless of other assessments identified in section 144.0724, subdivision 4, as appropriate to determine nursing facility level of care for purposes of medical assistance payment for nursing facility services, only face-to-face assessments conducted according to section 256B.0911, subdivisions 3a, 3b, and 4d, that result in a hospital level of care determination or a nursing facility level of care determination must be accepted for purposes of initial and ongoing access to waiver services payment.

(d) Recipients who are found eligible for home and community-based services under this section before their 65th birthday may remain eligible for these services after their 65th birthday if they continue to meet all other eligibility factors.

Subd. 15. Coordinated service and support plan; comprehensive transitional service plan; maintenance service plan. (a) Each recipient of home and community-based waived services shall be provided a copy of the written coordinated service and support plan which meets the requirements in section 256B.092, subdivision 1b.

(b) In developing the comprehensive transitional service plan, the individual receiving services, the case manager, and the guardian, if applicable, will identify the transitional service plan fundamental service outcome and anticipated timeline to achieve this outcome. Within the first 20 days following a recipient's request for an assessment or reassessment, the transitional service planning team must be identified. A team leader must be identified who will be responsible for assigning responsibility and communicating with team members to ensure implementation of the transition plan and ongoing assessment and communication process. The team leader should be an individual, such as the case manager or guardian, who has the opportunity to follow the recipient to the next level of service.

Within ten days following an assessment, a comprehensive transitional service plan must be developed incorporating elements of a comprehensive functional assessment and including short-term measurable outcomes and timelines for achievement of and reporting on these outcomes. Functional milestones must also be identified and reported according to the timelines agreed upon by the transitional service planning team. In addition, the comprehensive transitional service plan must identify additional supports that may assist in the achievement of the fundamental service outcome such as the development of greater natural community support, increased collaboration among agencies, and technological supports.

The timelines for reporting on functional milestones will prompt a reassessment of services provided, the units of services, rates, and appropriate service providers. It is the responsibility of the transitional service planning team leader to review functional milestone reporting to determine if the milestones are consistent with observable skills and that milestone achievement prompts any needed changes to the comprehensive transitional service plan.

For those whose fundamental transitional service outcome involves the need to procure housing, a plan for the recipient to seek the resources necessary to secure the least restrictive housing possible should be incorporated into the plan, including employment and public supports such as housing access and shelter needy funding.

(c) Counties and other agencies responsible for funding community placement and ongoing community supportive services are responsible for the implementation of the comprehensive transitional service plans. Oversight responsibilities include both ensuring effective transitional service delivery and efficient utilization of funding resources.

(d) Following one year of transitional services, the transitional services planning team will make a determination as to whether or not the individual receiving services requires the current level of continuous and consistent support in order to maintain the recipient's current level of functioning. Recipients who are determined to have not had a significant change in functioning for 12 months must move from a transitional to a maintenance service plan. Recipients on a maintenance service plan must be reassessed to determine if the recipient would benefit from a transitional service plan at least every 12 months and at other times when there has been a significant change in the recipient's functioning. This assessment should consider any changes to technological or natural community supports.

(e) When a county is evaluating denials, reductions, or terminations of home and community-based services under this section for an individual, the case manager shall offer to meet with the individual or the individual's guardian in order to discuss the prioritization of service needs within the coordinated service and support plan, comprehensive transitional service plan, or maintenance service plan. The reduction in the authorized services for an individual due to changes in funding for waived services may not exceed the amount needed to ensure medically necessary services to meet the individual's health, safety, and welfare.

Subd. 16. **Services and supports.** (a) Services and supports included in the home and community-based waivers for persons with disabilities shall meet the requirements set out in United States Code, title 42, section 1396n. The services and supports, which are offered as alternatives to institutional care, shall promote consumer choice, community inclusion, self-sufficiency, and self-determination.

(b) Beginning January 1, 2003, the commissioner shall simplify and improve access to home and community-based waived services, to the extent possible, through the establishment of a common service menu that is available to eligible recipients regardless of age, disability type, or waiver program.

(c) Consumer directed community support services shall be offered as an option to all persons eligible for services under subdivision 11, by January 1, 2002.

(d) Services and supports shall be arranged and provided consistent with individualized written plans of care for eligible waiver recipients.

(e) A transitional supports allowance shall be available to all persons under a home and community-based waiver who are moving from a licensed setting to a community setting. "Transitional supports allowance" means a onetime payment of up to \$3,000, to cover the costs, not covered by other sources, associated with moving from a licensed setting to a community setting. Covered costs include:

- (1) lease or rent deposits;
- (2) security deposits;
- (3) utilities setup costs, including telephone;
- (4) essential furnishings and supplies; and
- (5) personal supports and transports needed to locate and transition to community settings.

(f) The state of Minnesota and county agencies that administer home and community-based waived services for persons with disabilities, shall not be liable for damages, injuries, or liabilities sustained through the purchase of supports by the individual, the individual's family, legal representative, or the authorized representative with funds received through the consumer-directed community support service under this section. Liabilities include but are not limited to: workers' compensation liability, the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA), or the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA).

Subd. 16a. [Repealed, 2013 c 108 art 9 s 16]

Subd. 17. **Cost of services and supports.** (a) The commissioner shall ensure that the average per capita expenditures estimated in any fiscal year for home and community-based waiver recipients does not exceed the average per capita expenditures that would have been made to provide institutional services for recipients in the absence of the waiver.

(b) The commissioner shall implement on January 1, 2002, one or more aggregate, need-based methods for allocating to local agencies the home and community-based waived service resources available to support recipients with disabilities in need of the level of care provided in a nursing facility or a hospital. The commissioner shall allocate resources to single counties and county partnerships in a manner that reflects consideration of:

- (1) an incentive-based payment process for achieving outcomes;
- (2) the need for a state-level risk pool;
- (3) the need for retention of management responsibility at the state agency level; and
- (4) a phase-in strategy as appropriate.

(c) Until the allocation methods described in paragraph (b) are implemented, the annual allowable reimbursement level of home and community-based waiver services shall be the greater of:

(1) the statewide average payment amount which the recipient is assigned under the waiver reimbursement system in place on June 30, 2001, modified by the percentage of any provider rate increase appropriated for home and community-based services; or

(2) an amount approved by the commissioner based on the recipient's extraordinary needs that cannot be met within the current allowable reimbursement level. The increased reimbursement level must be necessary to allow the recipient to be discharged from an institution or to prevent imminent placement in an institution. The additional reimbursement may be used to secure environmental modifications; assistive technology and equipment; and increased costs for supervision, training, and support services necessary to address the recipient's extraordinary needs. The commissioner may approve an increased reimbursement level for up to one year of the recipient's relocation from an institution or up to six months of a determination that a current waiver recipient is at imminent risk of being placed in an institution.

(d) Beginning July 1, 2001, medically necessary home care nursing services will be authorized under this section as complex and regular care according to sections 256B.0651 to 256B.0654 and 256B.0659. The rate established by the commissioner for registered nurse or licensed practical nurse services under any home and community-based waiver as of January 1, 2001, shall not be reduced.

(e) Notwithstanding section 252.28, subdivision 3, paragraph (d), if the 2009 legislature adopts a rate reduction that impacts payment to providers of adult foster care services, the commissioner may issue adult foster care licenses that permit a capacity of five adults. The application for a five-bed license must meet the requirements of section 245A.11, subdivision 2a. Prior to admission of the fifth recipient of adult foster care services, the county must negotiate a revised per diem rate for room and board and waiver services that reflects the legislated rate reduction and results in an overall average per diem reduction for all foster care recipients in that home. The revised per diem must allow the provider to maintain, as much as possible, the level of services or enhanced services provided in the residence, while mitigating the losses of the legislated rate reduction.

Subd. 18. **Payments.** The commissioner shall reimburse approved vendors from the medical assistance account for the costs of providing home and community-based services to eligible recipients using the invoice processing procedures of the Medicaid management information system (MMIS). Recipients will be screened and authorized for services according to the federally approved waiver application and its subsequent amendments.

Subd. 19. **Health and welfare.** The commissioner of human services shall take the necessary safeguards to protect the health and welfare of individuals provided services under the waiver.

Subd. 20. **Brain injury and related conditions.** The commissioner shall seek to amend the brain injury waiver to include, as eligible persons, individuals with an acquired or degenerative disease diagnosis where cognitive impairment is present, such as multiple sclerosis.

Subd. 21. MS 2012 [Expired]

Subd. 22. **Residential support services.** For the purposes of this section, the provisions of section 256B.092, subdivision 11, are controlling.

Subd. 23. **Community-living settings.** "Community-living settings" means a single-family home or apartment where the service recipient or their family owns or rents, and maintains control over the individual unit as demonstrated by the lease agreement, or has a plan for transition of a lease from a service provider to the individual. Within two years of signing the initial lease, the service provider shall transfer the lease to the individual. In the event the landlord denies the transfer, the commissioner may approve an exception within sufficient time to ensure the continued occupancy by the individual. Community-living settings are subject to the following:

- (1) individuals are not required to receive services;
- (2) individuals are not required to have a disability or specific diagnosis to live in the community-living setting;
- (3) individuals may hire service providers of their choice;
- (4) individuals may choose whether to share their household and with whom;
- (5) the home or apartment must include living, sleeping, bathing, and cooking areas;
- (6) individuals must have lockable access and egress;
- (7) individuals must be free to receive visitors and leave the settings at times and for durations of their own choosing;
- (8) leases must not reserve the right to assign units or change unit assignments; and
- (9) access to the greater community must be easily facilitated based on the individual's needs and preferences.

Subd. 24. **Waiver allocations for transition populations.** (a) The commissioner shall make available additional waiver allocations and additional necessary resources to assure timely discharges from the Anoka-Metro Regional Treatment Center and the Minnesota Security Hospital in St. Peter for individuals who meet the following criteria:

- (1) are otherwise eligible for the brain injury, community access for disability inclusion, or community alternative care waivers under this section;

(2) who would otherwise remain at the Anoka-Metro Regional Treatment Center or the Minnesota Security Hospital;

(3) whose discharge would be significantly delayed without the available waiver allocation; and

(4) who have met treatment objectives and no longer meet hospital level of care.

(b) Additional waiver allocations under this subdivision must meet cost-effectiveness requirements of the federal approved waiver plan.

(c) Any corporate foster care home developed under this subdivision must be considered an exception under section 245A.03, subdivision 7, paragraph (a).

Subd. 25. Reduce avoidable behavioral crisis emergency room admissions, psychiatric inpatient hospitalizations, and commitments to institutions. (a) Persons receiving home and community-based services authorized under this section who have two or more admissions within a calendar year to an emergency room, psychiatric unit, or institution must receive consultation from a mental health professional as defined in section 245.462, subdivision 18, or a behavioral professional as defined in the home and community-based services state plan within 30 days of discharge. The mental health professional or behavioral professional must:

(1) conduct a functional assessment of the crisis incident as defined in section 245D.02, subdivision 11, which led to the hospitalization with the goal of developing proactive strategies as well as necessary reactive strategies to reduce the likelihood of future avoidable hospitalizations due to a behavioral crisis;

(2) use the results of the functional assessment to amend the coordinated service and support plan in section 245D.02, subdivision 4b, to address the potential need for additional staff training, increased staffing, access to crisis mobility services, mental health services, use of technology, and crisis stabilization services in section 256B.0624, subdivision 7; and

(3) identify the need for additional consultation, testing, mental health crisis intervention team services as defined in section 245D.02, subdivision 20, psychotropic medication use and monitoring under section 245D.051, and the frequency and duration of ongoing consultation.

(b) For the purposes of this subdivision, "institution" includes, but is not limited to, the Anoka-Metro Regional Treatment Center and the Minnesota Security Hospital.

Subd. 26. Excess allocations. Effective July 1, 2018, county and tribal agencies will be responsible for spending in excess of the annual allocation made by the commissioner. In the event a county or tribal agency spends in excess of the allocation made by the commissioner for a given allocation period, the county or tribal agency must submit a corrective action plan to the commissioner for approval. The plan must state the actions the agency will take to correct its overspending for the two years following the period when the overspending occurred. The commissioner shall recoup funds spent in excess of the allocation only in cases when statewide spending exceeds the appropriation designated for the home and community-based services waivers. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as reducing the county or tribe's responsibility to offer and make available feasible home and community-based options to eligible waiver recipients within the resources allocated to it for that purpose.

Subd. 27. Use of waiver allocations. (a) Effective until June 30, 2018, county and tribal agencies are responsible for authorizing the annual allocation made by the commissioner. In the event a county or tribal agency authorizes less than 97 percent of the allocation, while maintaining a list of persons waiting for waiver services, the county or tribal agency must submit a corrective action plan to the commissioner for

approval. The commissioner may determine a plan is unnecessary given the size of the allocation and capacity for new enrollment. The plan must state the actions the agency will take to assure reasonable and timely access to home and community-based waiver services for persons waiting for services.

(b) Effective July 1, 2018, county and tribal agencies are responsible for spending the annual allocation made by the commissioner. In the event a county or tribal agency spends less than 97 percent of the allocation, while maintaining a list of persons waiting for waiver services, the county or tribal agency must submit a corrective action plan to the commissioner for approval. The commissioner may determine a plan is unnecessary given the size of the allocation and capacity for new enrollment. The plan must state the actions the agency will take to assure reasonable and timely access to home and community-based waiver services for persons waiting for services.

(c) If a county or tribe does not submit a plan when required or implement the changes required, the commissioner shall assure access to waiver services within the county or tribe's available allocation, and take other actions needed to assure that all waiver participants in that county or tribe are receiving appropriate waiver services to meet their needs.

History: 1984 c 640 s 32; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 24,58; 1990 c 568 art 3 s 76; 1991 c 292 art 4 s 61; 1992 c 513 art 7 s 114; 1Sp1993 c 1 art 5 s 105; 1995 c 207 art 6 s 87-89; 1996 c 451 art 5 s 29-31; 1997 c 7 art 5 s 31; 1997 c 203 art 4 s 47; art 7 s 24; 1999 c 156 s 1; 1Sp2001 c 9 art 3 s 58-67; 2002 c 277 s 32; 2002 c 379 art 1 s 113; 1Sp2003 c 14 art 3 s 46; 2004 c 288 art 3 s 25; 2005 c 56 s 1; 1Sp2005 c 4 art 7 s 44; 2007 c 147 art 6 s 45; art 7 s 58; 2008 c 277 art 1 s 39; 2008 c 317 s 2; 2009 c 79 art 1 s 19; art 6 s 13; art 8 s 64-68; 2009 c 173 art 1 s 30; 1Sp2011 c 9 art 4 s 9; art 7 s 38-41; 2012 c 216 art 9 s 29; art 11 s 38-40; art 14 s 2; 2012 c 247 art 4 s 34-36; 2013 c 63 s 15; 2013 c 108 art 2 s 37,38,44; art 4 s 27; art 7 s 38-42; art 8 s 51; art 15 s 3,4; 2014 c 262 art 5 s 6; 2014 c 291 art 9 s 5; 2015 c 71 art 7 s 33,34; 2015 c 78 art 6 s 31; 2017 c 90 s 19; 1Sp2017 c 6 art 2 s 14,15; 2019 c 50 art 1 s 75; 1Sp2019 c 9 art 5 s 52,53