

March 15, 2013

Cynthia Mann
Director
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, MS S2-26-12
Baltimore, Maryland 21244

Dear Ms. Mann:

I am writing to request a technical amendment to the Section 1115 Partnership Plan Waiver (11-W-00114/2) to be effective April 1, 2013. The purpose of the amendment is to expand the objectives of the current Partnership Plan Waiver to support NYS' transformation of the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) service delivery system. This multi-year transformation, which is described in more detail in a 12 point proposal (See Attachment 1), has at its core the following key elements:

1. Deinstitutionalization and transitioning people into the most integrated settings possible to meet their housing and support needs.
2. Ensure that existing and new community based services meet CMS' Home and Community Based Standards and that all services developed through NYS' OPWDD People First Waiver-1915 (b) (c) will be the result of person centered planning with a particular emphasis on self-direction, competitive employment and integrated housing. Also, a greater focus on care coordination and quality measurement and improvement using personal outcome data will also be operationalized as part of the OPWDD People First Waiver.
3. Aggressive expansion in the number of people who:
 - a. self-direct at least part of their services;
 - b. are competitively employed;
 - c. transition from institutions to qualifying HCBS settings or those that meet Money Follows the Person criteria.

To help NYS support this major multi-year system transformation, that will better support New Yorkers with developmental disabilities, we are seeking Federal approval to expand funding for certain previously approved designated state health programs within the NYS Department of Mental Hygiene including OPWDD. The approximate value of these state expenditures is \$500 million with FFP \$250 million. CMS will need to officially communicate to us which specific programs will be covered.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We are anxious to get this amendment and the resulting additional funds in place so that we can begin the transformation of the system that supports people with developmental disabilities. We are ready to meet with you and your staff as needed.

Sincerely,



Jason A. Helgerson
Medicaid Director
Office of Health Insurance Programs

Attachment

cc: C. Burke
J. Ulberg
J. Moran
K. Delaney
L. Raffaele
F. Walsh