



Senior and Disability Services

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Area Agency on Aging

DATE: April 4, 2017
TO: SSAC/DSAC
FROM: Mary K Fitzmorris, Program Manager and Randi Moore, Program Manager
RE: **SDS Program Report**

Centralized Medicaid Eligibility and Integrated Eligibility Project

To increase efficiency and effectiveness, last year the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) launched a new eligibility system, which allows consumers to apply online for the Oregon Health Plan (OHP). Continuing these efforts, this system now has an *Applicant Portal*, which will soon allow OHP members to renew their coverage online. This *Portal* is an important step toward an overarching goal of integrated eligibility, or a uniform system allowing all Oregonians a simple, easily navigable process for all OHA and Department of Human Services (DHS) amenities. Having a consolidated process across both DHS and OHA creates more accurate, timely, and efficient services to those SDS serves, while also ensuring compliance with Federal rules and regulations.

Case Management

SDS has received notification from the DHS State Office of Aging and People with Disabilities regarding potential changes to case management. Under this direction, within the next six months, a safety-focused policy will be implemented by OCWCOG's SDS department to separate out case management eligibility from ongoing case management services. Intake Case Managers will complete all new referrals, doing the initial financial eligibility, along with the Client Assessment and Planning System. Then the client will be transferred to an ongoing Case Manager for long-term services. This new policy is designed to allow ongoing Case Managers to focus more closely on care planning, monitoring, and risk assessment of our consumers. Intake Case Managers will be able to "red flag" cases per specific guidelines, so that ongoing Case Managers can be aware of consumers in potentially unsafe situations.

Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) and Individually-Based Limitations (IBL)

Under new federal Medicaid rules, any consumer living in a community-based setting now has choices about certain aspects regarding living in these facilities. Council members may recall that these new rules came into effect in 2015, but States and providers were allowed a transition period to fully comply until 2017. These new rules are person-centered and revolve around the consumer's choice. However, there may be times when the rule requirements can be limited due to health and safety risks. If that is the case, any limitations must be written in the consumer's person-centered care plan. These limitations will not be used without the consumer's or their legal representative's informed consent. The new Rule changes involve the following areas:

- Protection to live under a legal landlord/tenant agreement, or its equivalent
- Privacy in the bedroom or living unit
- A lockable door in the bedroom or living unit
- Choice of roommate, if sharing a bedroom
- Furnishing and decorating the bedroom or living unit as you choose
- Freedom and support to control your schedule and activities
- Freedom and support to have access to food at any time
- Visitors of your choosing at any time