



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
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OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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RODERICK L. BREMBY
Commissioner

March 22, 2016

Honorable Marilyn Moore, Senate Chair, Human Services
Honorable Catherine Abercrombie, House Chair, Human Services
Honorable Beth Bye, Senate Chair, Appropriations
Honorable Toni E. Walker, House Chair Appropriations

Human Services Committee
Appropriations Committee

Re: Amendments to the Acquired Brain Injury and Acquired Brain Injury II Medicaid Waivers

Dear Honorable Co-Chairs, Ranking Members and Members of the Human Services and Appropriations Committee:

In accordance with the provisions of section 17b-8 of the Connecticut General Statutes, notice is hereby given that the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services (DSS) intends to amend the Acquired Brain Injury Waiver (ABI Waiver, also known as Acquired Brain Injury Waiver I) and the Acquired Brain Injury Waiver II (ABI II Waiver) to transition the case management service currently provided by Department Social Workers to contracted entities that will be selected based on a competitive procurement. The selected contractors will address all participants' case management needs.

This is critical because, currently, participants in the ABI Waiver programs are not receiving the protection and oversight they need and deserve from professional case management services. The Department lacks sufficient Social Work staff to provide these services. The result is insufficient support to our clients. A byproduct of the current situation is also occurrence of conflicts of interest in which some service providers are essentially guiding the case management due to the vacuum of professional oversight that is needed to meet federal standards.

The Department would like to take this opportunity to explain that this notification is in response to the outcome of the December 17, 2015, ABI and ABI II Waiver hearing with the Human Services and Appropriations Committees, in which such proposed amendments were rejected for submission to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

To fully address the public and committees' concerns regarding this proposed amendment, the Department has moved forward with several steps in a concerted effort toward resolution. To fully address the public and committees' concerns regarding this proposed amendment, the Department has moved forward with several steps in a concerted effort toward resolution.

- An updated Notice of Intent to amend the ABI and ABI II Waivers, including a request for public comments, was posted on the DSS website beginning on February 2, 2016, and in the Connecticut Law Journal on February 9, 2016. In accordance with CGS 17b-8, the Department accepted public comments on this proposed amendment for 30 days, closing on March 10, 2016. During this time, the Department received two comments. For a copy of the Notice of Intent and of the public comments received during this period, please see the attached documents.

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- Pursuant to section 4e-16(p) of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Department has also completed a cost-effectiveness analysis for the proposed ABI and ABI II Waiver transition. The Department has used the template found on the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) website (specifically, <http://www.ct.gov/opm/cwp/view.asp?a=2978&q=553890>) as the foundation for this evaluation. The analysis has been reviewed and validated by OPM. Attached to this notice is a copy of this cost-effectiveness analysis. Please see lines 148 through 155 of the Forms tab to review a summary and comparison of costs of contracting out to in-house service delivery. In summary, the analysis projects a savings of \$787,407.63 in Year 1 by contracting out when compared to hiring additional staff in-house.
- In response to concerns specifically related to the qualifications listed on the Request for Proposals (RFP) for Care Management in the ABI Waiver program, the Department added four additional amendments to the Minimum Qualifications of Respondents piece in the RFP. The Department recognized and utilized the valuable input of ABI providers, advocates and others to expanding the minimum qualifications for experience and credentials. The same care has also been given to building in specific training for ABI and requiring a full 2 years of Care Management experience. In all, these additions further strengthen the quality of services delivered, and care plan monitoring. Specific amended sections are listed in **bold** below:

Minimum Qualifications of Respondents: To submit a response to the ABI waiver program RFP, a Respondent shall have the following minimum qualifications:

1. A minimum of five (5) years of demonstrated experience **in the provision of Care Management in a home and community based setting**, providing Care Management services, as described on page one (1) of the RFP;
2. The Staff designated to provide Care Management Services must have no less than a Master's Degree in Social Work and be a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) or a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), **or possess a Master's degree in Human Services, Counseling or Rehabilitation Counseling**, or have a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing;
3. The Staff designated to provide Care Management Services must have **at least two (2) years of Care Management experience in health care or human services settings** and the ability to serve multicultural, multilingual populations; and
4. The skill set to lead and facilitate the Care Team that includes the participant's team of providers and supporters, and reach consensus on the Service Plan.

The Department is hopeful that the amendments to the RFP and the resubmittal of the proposed ABI and ABI II Waiver amendments will demonstrate our commitment to ensuring that the highest quality of services, in a true conflict-free and person-centered case management setting utilizing person-centeredness as its core value, is available to all ABI and ABI II Waiver participants.

For additional reference on the proposed ABI and ABI II Waiver amendments, attached is a copy of the application to amend the ABI and ABI II Waivers, the Notices of Intent that were posted on the DSS website on February 2, 2016, and in the Connecticut Law Journal on February 9, 2016, two sets of comments the Department received in response to the Notice of Intent, the cost-effectiveness analysis, the Request for Proposals regarding Care Management for ABI and ABI II, the ABI client satisfaction telephonic survey for the greater Danbury pilot program, a fact sheet on ABI and a key points document.

Please let us know if any additional information is needed.

On behalf of our clients in the ABI Waiver programs, the Department greatly appreciates your time and support throughout this waiver amendment process.

Sincerely,

Roderick L. Bremby
by (KMBrennan)

Roderick L. Bremby
Commissioner

- c: Kathleen Brennan, Deputy Commissioner
Kate McEvoy, Medicaid Director
Kathy Bruni, Home and Community-Based Services Director
Alvin Wilson, Jr., Counsel and Director of Government Relations
Michael Slitt, Staff Attorney