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MEMORANDUM

To: Bureau of Developmental Services Stakeholders
From: Sandy Hunt, Bureau Chief
Date: July 11, 2019
Subject: Status of Funding for Developmental Disability Services

As you are all likely aware, the State Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget passed by the legislature was vetoed by Governor Sununu. In order to maintain the operations of state government, the legislature passed and the Governor has signed a continuing resolution that funds all of state government for the next three months at the adjusted Fiscal Year 2019 level. The Bureau of Developmental Services (BDS) will thus continue to fund developmental disability services at that level until a final budget is enacted.

The Department is taking steps to maintain services for as many persons as possible who came off the Wait List in the FY 2018/2019 biennium, but there is a gap between the adjusted FY 2019 budget and the anticipated FY 2020/2021 budget of approximately \$7.9 million. Those persons who came off of the Wait List and are now on the maintenance budget may experience gaps in services until a final budget is in place.

At this time, we estimate that 59 people, including those new to the system and those exiting the education system (As and Bs), will remain on the Wait List for July, August, and September 2019. In addition, those requiring additional services (Cs) in the first quarter, an estimated 70 people, have requests pending for additional funding and are also registered on the Wait List. There are no funds available without the carry forward from the lapse as noted in HB2 to serve these individuals in the first quarter of FY 2020.

The Department is bringing forward several transfer requests, including a request to transfer federal funds to cover DD maintenance services begun in late FY 2019 that need to be continued during the period of the continuing resolution. This transfer will not preclude the existence of a DD Wait List during the next 3 months.

Impact on Services

BDS anticipates the continuation of supports and services provided by DD, ABD, and IHS Medicaid Waivers and the Contracts with Area Agencies with the approval by the Fiscal Committee of the Department's transfer requests.

Wait List – Agencies should continue to submit individuals for inclusion on the Wait List. BDS liaisons will accept people onto the Wait List registry. Area Agency weekly planning calls with BDS liaisons will continue, but Wait List planning will be handled separate from these calls. BDS Liaisons will be available to Area Agencies for monthly on-site meetings to review Wait List participant status and plans that are participant specific. Each BDS liaison will contact their respective agencies to make arrangements for on-site meetings in July, August, and September.

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Since there is no funding for Wait List, it is important that Agencies communicate to individuals and their families that there is no funding to take people off of the Wait List during the continuing resolution and advise families to consider options, like respite within the Family Support Program, to assist them during the length of the continuing resolution. Area Agencies know the families best and are well positioned to communicate on a personal level, as well as consider options for support during the length of the continuing resolution.

For those people on the Wait List that Agencies are unable to serve during the continuing resolution, we ask that Agencies conduct Utilization Review within your organization with the intent of allocating one-time funding as needed for any life-changing crisis situation that may arise for an individual on the Wait List. BDS is fully aware that there are many challenges facing families who are on the Wait List and that Agencies will be challenged to support people that may enter crisis without the Wait List funding. A reminder that if an Agency provides services without an approved PA it is at risk of the PA not being approved for the date services started and is at-risk for non-payment of services provided. Please work with your BDS liaison to address those who may require one-time crisis funding due to an extreme extenuating change in circumstance.

Agency Specific Planning – Agency Executive Directors, post Utilization Review and agency planning efforts, are welcome to review Agency plans, and address Agency concerns, with the BDS by contacting Sandy Hunt, the Bureau Chief, to set up a meeting. Collaborative, on-going, real-time communication between agency management and the Bureau are critical to ensure that we are working together to best serve individuals and their families that may be impacted.

Year-End – BDS is prioritizing between now and 8/1/19 year-end processing inclusive of any remaining PAs not processed prior to year-end, that have a BDS Liaison approval in place, with start dates prior to 7/1/19.

PA Renewals and PDMS Budget Changes – Agencies should submit PA renewals and line item changes to PDMS budgets for approval that are revenue neutral. BDS is prioritizing 7/1/19 renewals for Residential Personal Care Level 5s and 7s to be completed by the end of July. Effective 8/1/19, and with the approval of the Department transfer, BDS will prioritize Residential Personal Care Level 6s for approval.

Environmental Modifications – Between now and 8/1/19, BDS will prioritize approvals for modifications directly related to life safety and/or emergency regress. Following the transfer of funds, BDS will consider approval for other environmental modifications.

Sector Based Training – BDS is prioritizing the approval of Sector Based Training.

Specialty Services – BDS is prioritizing the approval of Specialty Services submitted by Agencies.

PDMS Temporary Crisis Allocation – Agencies may through the BDS liaison request to temporarily move dollars from one individual to another individual for a crisis situation (see Policy Number 032 effective date August 1, 2017).

Crisis Funding – Agencies are to submit requests for approval for crisis funds for people with annualized budgets using the current process (see Policy Number 031 effective date August 1, 2017) using the funds available to the agency.

Any questions should be communicated to Sandy Hunt, BDS Bureau Chief: Sandy.Hunt@dhhs.nh.gov.