



# mychoice matters



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH & WELFARE

## NEWSLETTER AUGUST - 2018

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### WHY ARE YOU GETTING THIS NEWSLETTER?

Exciting changes are happening in the Idaho Medicaid program for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities! This newsletter lets you know about those changes. You can let Medicaid know what you think about these changes. Go to this website: [www.mychoicematters.idaho.gov](http://www.mychoicematters.idaho.gov)

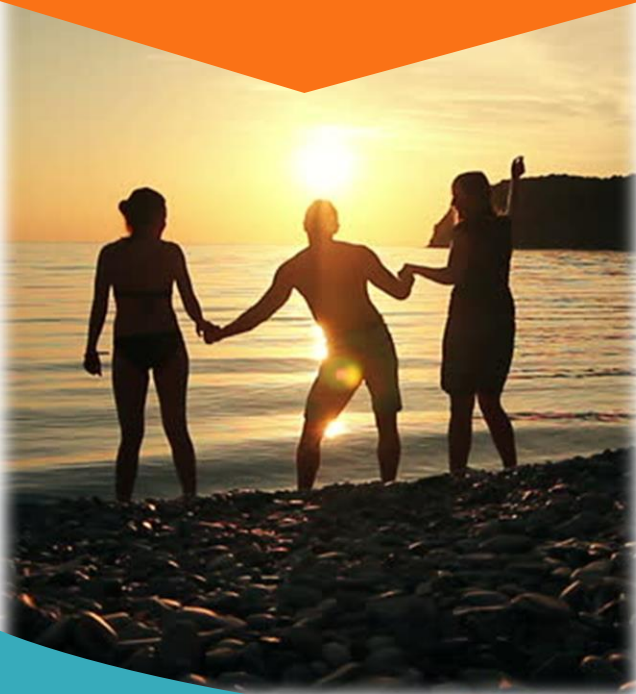
Or email Idaho Medicaid at: [KW@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:KW@dhw.idaho.gov) or call Medicaid for free at: 1-844-793-1286.

### CHANGES TO IDAHO MEDICAID

#### The K.W. Lawsuit

**What is it?** There is a lawsuit in Idaho which is "K.W. vs. Armstrong," also called the K.W. lawsuit. It is called the K.W. lawsuit because the letters "K.W." are the initials of one of the adults in the program who brought the case. The lawsuit is against the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

As part of the K.W. lawsuit, Idaho Medicaid agreed to make changes to the program for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. If you are an adult who gets services from Idaho's adult Medicaid developmental disability waiver program, you are covered by the K.W. lawsuit, and the changes talked about in this newsletter apply to you.



## Supports Budgets

**What are supports budgets?** Every year, adults get an amount of money to use on Medicaid supports and services that they need. This amount of money is called a “supports budget.”

Medicaid has agreed to come up with a new way to figure out supports budgets. The new way will be called a “supports budget model.” The supports budget model is not ready yet. It will take at least three years for the supports budget model to be ready, and might take longer.



Until the new supports budget model is ready, you will be able to ask for the highest budget you have had since July 1, 2011. This is called your Injunction Budget. Later, when the new supports budget model is ready, everyone will get a new supports budget under the new model.

## The SIS-A Assessment

**What is a SIS-A assessment?** Idaho Medicaid will use a new assessment called the Supports Intensity Scale-Adult (SIS-A®). The SIS-A is an assessment tool developed by a team of experts that included people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), family members, and professionals in the field of developmental disabilities.

The SIS-A measures individual support needs in personal life, work-related activities, and social activities. This creates a description of the types and amount of support a person with an I/DD needs to participate in life at home and in the community (their support level).

Right now, Idaho Medicaid uses the Scales of Independent Behavior-Revised (SIB-R) to help figure out your needs. When the new supports budget model is ready, Medicaid will no longer use the SIB-R. Under the new supports budget model, each adult will receive a SIS-A assessment, then a support level with a supports budget. Adults will be able to choose their services using their new supports budget under the new model.

There were 800 adults in the program asked to take a SIS-A in the spring and summer of 2018. The information that the 800 adults gave as part of this first round of SIS-A assessments will not be used to affect their current budgets or services in any way. The information from this round will just be used to build a better system.

**Be heard!** Under the new supports budget model, assessors will look at your SIS-A score and other documents. This information will help Medicaid figure out if you have extraordinary medical or behavioral needs. **What information or documents do you think would help Medicaid understand your needs?** Contact Medicaid using the website, email or phone number at the end of this newsletter to share your ideas.

# Community NOW!

**What is Community NOW!?** Community NOW! is a workgroup of people from around Idaho and is led by adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families.

This workgroup allows adults with IDD to talk about what is and is not working with adult DD services under Idaho's Medicaid DD waiver program.

To learn more about these meetings or what Community NOW! is doing, go to [www.mychoicematters.idaho.gov](http://www.mychoicematters.idaho.gov) and click on the "**Community NOW**" tab. You can also find information on the website of the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities at: <https://icdd.idaho.gov> under the tab "**Council Projects.**"

## Service Changes

Community NOW! began meeting in January 2017 and worked for six months to create a report that had 17 recommendations to Idaho Medicaid about changes to services in the adult DD program. Medicaid is working on some of those recommendations, including:



- Improving the person centered planning process (more information about this is in this newsletter under "Person Centered Planning")
- Providing more flexibility for adults who receive supported living, so that they can use more than one provider
- Looking at how service providers in supported living are paid
- Looking at making improvements in the program so that you have staff with more skills to give you higher quality support in the way you want your support provided
- Adding a new support service that does not require you to work on "programs" or "skills" in order to get help to do the things you want to do
- Adding a new service that helps adults who want to work in a job
- Allow more flexibility in the number of miles allowed for non-medical transportation

To read the report on services from Community NOW! go to [www.mychoicematters.idaho.gov](http://www.mychoicematters.idaho.gov) and click on the "**Community NOW**" tab.

## Person Centered Planning

**What is person centered planning?** Person centered planning (PCP) is a way to help you be the boss of your own life so that you can make your own decisions with the support of the people you choose.



Community NOW! partners and stakeholders have been meeting since August of 2017 to establish a PCP system in Idaho. The goal is to create a system where adults are in charge of the plans for their life. The group has come up with requirements for Idaho's PCP process and this work will continue through 2018.

There is a status report of this work that can be found at:

[www.mychoicematters.idaho.gov](http://www.mychoicematters.idaho.gov)

under the tab "**Community NOW**" and the link "**Person Centered Planning Status Report.**"

## Free Advocacy Training for Budget Appeals, Reimbursement for Service Coordinators and Support Brokers

You can get free training about how to advocate for yourself or someone else in a Medicaid budget appeal. The free training classes are held around the state. The training classes are taught by the lawyers who represent all adults in the Idaho adult DD Medicaid program. To learn about trainings coming up in your area, go to [www.OurHealthandWelfare.org](http://www.OurHealthandWelfare.org) and click on "**TSC Training.**"

Service Coordinators and Support Brokers can get reimbursement for helping with budget appeals if they complete the training.

Support Brokers and Service Coordinators

who have already completed the training can get reimbursed for budget appeals they helped with after they did the training. To get reimbursed, Service Coordinators and Support Brokers need to sign a repayment agreement and submit an invoice. You can find the agreement and invoice form at [www.mychoicematters.idaho.gov](http://www.mychoicematters.idaho.gov) under "**What's New**" or at [www.OurHealthandWelfare.org](http://www.OurHealthandWelfare.org) under "**TSC Training.**" You will learn more about the reimbursement process at the free training.



## WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING?

**Guardianships.** Idaho courts are taking a closer look at guardianships for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Just because someone has an intellectual or developmental disability does not mean he or she needs a guardianship. Adults may need support to make decisions, but this does not always mean that someone else should make their decisions. There are alternatives to full guardianship.

To find out more about these alternatives, email Amy Cunningham at Disability Rights Idaho: [amy@disabilityrightsidaho.org](mailto:amy@disabilityrightsidaho.org). You can also call the Crisis Prevention Team at: North Hub (208) 665-8990; West Hub (208) 954-8990; or East Hub (208) 528-4040.



## HOW CAN I LET MEDICAID KNOW WHAT I THINK? WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Please let Medicaid know what you think! You can also get more information about the changes talked about in this newsletter. Go to this website:

[www.mychoicematters.idaho.gov](http://www.mychoicematters.idaho.gov)

Or email Idaho Medicaid at: [KW@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:KW@dhw.idaho.gov)  
Or call Medicaid for free at: 1-844-793-1286.