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February 26, 2018

To the Members of Community NOW! and all adults in the Medicaid program,

This letter is a second update on Medicaid's response to the Community NOW! Service and Support Recommendations Report (Report). The first update we sent was dated September 1, 2017. It can be found at www.mychoicematters.idaho.org under the "Community NOW" tab.

What has Medicaid been doing since September 2017?

Working on a new person-centered planning process

Medicaid has carefully reviewed each recommendation in the Report. Adults said the three most important service recommendations were:

- Create a non-medical service model to appropriately support adults
- Establish a quality person-centered planning process
- Generate access to competent, consistent, capable and quality staff

In August of 2017, Medicaid met with members of Community NOW! to plan another series of meetings. These meetings were to talk about person-centered (PCP) planning. Community NOW! made work groups to begin looking at requirements for Idaho's PCP process. These work groups met in November and December of 2017. They also met in January of 2018. On March 1, 2018, these workgroups will present Idaho's draft PCP model to the whole Community NOW! group. The Community NOW! group can give feedback on the proposed model.

Researching services in other states and preparing a proposed plan

In September of 2017, I met with members of Medicaid staff. We talked about the recommendations. I assigned staff to start researching what service changes Idaho could look at to address the recommendations.

Also in September of 2017, Human Services Research Institute (HSRI) gave Medicaid some ideas about what Idaho could look at in response to the Report. HSRI's ideas were to look at:

- More service choices within residential habilitation
- A service that would allow for support without requiring skill-building
- More transportation access
- A service that connects adults with community resources and activities
- Support hours that can be accessed by people using Certified Family Homes
- Better employment related supports
- More options for education after high school
- Flexibility for adults to retire if they'd like
- Clearer information about Medicaid services
- Information and help for people transitioning into services
- Support services for adults in the hospital

HSRI also gave Medicaid examples of new and innovative services they had recently collected.

Since October of 2017, Medicaid staff members have been looking at almost every Medicaid program across the country for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Medicaid did this to see what services are being offered in other states. Medicaid also looked at how those services are defined and how they work. This research took over four months to complete.

Setting a meeting to talk about services

On February 12, 2018, I met with Medicaid staff to review the research and recommendations from the Report. We started coming up with ideas to address the recommendations. Medicaid met with the DD Council to work on setting a meeting for the adults and family members participating in Community NOW! to

take place on March 27, 2018. This meeting will give Medicaid a chance to talk with adults and families about Medicaid's ideas and hear your thoughts about those ideas. Medicaid will continue to discuss and review this research. We will also present this research to the Department of Health and Welfare Director, Russ Barron, and the Deputy Director, Lisa Hettinger, after we meet with you on March 27, 2018.

Working on a new resource allocation model

As part of the KW lawsuit settlement agreement, Medicaid agreed to develop a new resource allocation model (budget tool). This will be used to determine budgets for adult I/DD Medicaid services. Medicaid agreed to develop this model within 2 years, which would be by January 12, 2019. If Medicaid is not able to develop the budget tool in 2 years because of the amount of work, the settlement agreement allows an additional year. If the work is not done by January 12, 2020, then the parties might have to go back to court to extend the deadline.

When the new budget tool is developed, adults will receive a Supports Intensity Scale-Adult (SIS-A) assessment. Then, each adult will receive a support level with a budget. Adults will be able to choose their services using their budget.

Medicaid must decide how to meet the budget model deadline. Medicaid must also determine what service changes could be possible by that deadline. Medicaid can look at making some service changes now, and then develop a plan to work with Community NOW! to address other recommendations after the tool has been developed. HSRI made a service recommendation to include in the new budget tool. We want to discuss this recommendation with adults and families at the meeting on March 27, 2018 and get your feedback.

Medicaid is in the process of working on the new model. The first step is to get adults in the program to take a SIS-A assessment. If you are chosen to take part in this assessment, please participate! The information collected from a wide variety of adults using adult DD services will be used to create the budget tool. To get more information about the KW lawsuit, the SIS-A, or Community NOW!, go to: www.mychoicematters.idaho.org

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Or call Idaho Medicaid: 1-844-793-1286, or

Or email Medicaid at: KW@dhw.idaho.gov

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting on March 27, 2018. At that meeting, we want to hear from you about:

- What do you think of Medicaid's ideas to address services?
- What do you think of HSRI's ideas?
- What other ideas do you have that we missed?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Wimmer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MATT WIMMER,
Administrator

MW/tm