**DMH/DD/SAS Updates for NCPC on 08/04/2022:**

**Joint Communication Bulletins:**

**Joint Communication Bulletin #J424** entitled, *Extension of COVID-19 Flexibility for Opioid Treatment Programs (OTP) Take-Home Dosing Update*came out on July 18, 2022**.**

* This bulletin provides an update to Joint Communication Bulletin #J422 regarding OTP Take-Home dosing COVID-19 flexibility extension based on the exemption from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).
* With this exemption, the Division of Health Benefits (DHB) will allow the provision and billing for Take-Home doses provided by OTPs until Aug. 15, 2022 for: 1) Stable patients in an OTP, who may receive 28 days of take-home doses of the patient’s medication for opioid use disorder; 2) Less stable but who the OTP believes can safely handle this level of Take-Home medication, who may receive up to 14 days of take-home medication.
* It remains within the OTP provider’s discretion to determine the number of take-home doses within each category of ‘stable’ or ‘less stable.’ The provider is still responsible for determining the amount of take-home doses that an individual can safely manage.
* Further guidance will be forthcoming regarding the possibility of extending this exemption.
* If you have any questions, please contact Howard Anthony at: Howard.Anthony@dhhs.nc.gov.

**Joint Communication Bulletin #J425,** titled, *State-Funded Independent Living Service* came out on July 19, 2022.

* This bulletin provides information regarding the end-dating of the State-Funded Independent Living Service - Intellectual and/or Developmental Disability (I/DD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). Based upon underutilization of this service statewide, on Nov. 30, 2022, the service will end-date.
* Billing should be completed as follows: Individuals with I/DD or TBI who are CURRENTLY enrolled in the state-funded Independent Living service must transition to State-Funded Supported Living Periodic, Residential Supports or another available service by Nov. 30, 2022. The YM700 NCTracks procedure code will no longer be billable after Nov. 30, 2022.
* Note: DMH/DD/SAS does not have a state-funded service requirement for current individuals accessing services to obtain updated psychological assessments to access the updated service definitions. However, LME/MCOs should retain documentation that supports the individual meeting the applicable benefit plan and service criteria.
* If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Jones at: Stephanie.Jones@dhhs.nc.gov.

**Tailored Plan Onsite Readiness Reviews** are wrapping up this week. State staff have spent one and a half days at each LME/MCO for the reviews since mid-July and Vaya is the last, with their review happening on Monday and Tuesday.

DI-NC is offering a [**series of virtual training events via the DI-NC Employer Virtual Forum**](https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ej9qykzw5b4f3327&llr=uoyxbmzab)**(EVF)** to better support the needs of businesses interested in hiring people with intellectual and developmental disabilities ( I/DD), and Self Advocates seeking more inclusive employment opportunities. The DI-NC Employer Virtual Forum is in partnership with the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities*.* The training series is offered at no cost. All training sessions begin at 11:00am and end at 12:00 noon. Below are details regarding the next four meetings:

* **August 10: Dispelling Myths About Hiring Individuals With I/DD Via Cultural Transformation** – Identifying and hiring talent with intellectual and developmental disabilities can be wrought with myths. In this session, we will unpack these myths, to see beyond the perceived challenges and connect with the talent people with I/DD have to offer. We will also explore ways to support disability inclusion, address potential team dynamics, and offer approaches to enhance inclusion of employees with I/DD, through cultural shifts that serve everybody.
* **August 17: Addressing Legal Questions Around Recruiting and Hiring Individuals with I/DD** – In this session, we will unpack potential barriers to the successful recruitment and hiring of people with I/DD, from crafting role descriptions through interviewing, and offer practical solutions to ensure that processes are built to minimize unintended barriers. We will also dive into strategies for promoting self-identification and disclosure amongst existing employees and new hires alike.
* **August 24: Customized Integrated Employment : A Comprehensive Overview** - Customized Integrated Employment is the deepest and most comprehensive way to bring forth the unique talents and abilities of employees with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). This session will explore what Customized Integrated Employment is. This session will also address strategies for building effective partnerships with North Carolina Division of Vocational Rehabilitation ( NC DVR) and other state agencies and employment organizations.
* **August 31: Providing Reasonable Accommodations: A Deep Dive** - Providing “reasonable accommodations” can seem intimidating to many small and medium-size and even large businesses. In this session we will explore how reasonable accommodations work, what a variety of accommodations (including assistive technology) can look like, and how employers can best support employees and candidates in the accommodations process.

Following is the link for additional information:

https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Reminder--Disability-IN-North-Carolina-to-Host-Virtual-Employment-Training-Series.html?soid=1103306199316&aid=3hPJ5hqi9hU