**DMH/DD/SAS Updates for the NC Provider Council on 09/01/2022**

**Joint Communication Bulletins**

**Joint Communication Bulletin #J426** titled*,* *Follow-up to Joint Communication Bulletin #J419 – Clarification Regarding Transitions to Community Living (TCL) Eligibility for Individuals with Co-Occurring Neurocognitive and/or Acquired Brain Injury Diagnoses* was disseminated on July 22, 2022.

* This bulletin further clarifies the reference in Joint Communication Bulletin (JCB) # J419 to the co-occurring diagnostic eligibility criteria guidelines for Transitions to Community Living (TCL) when an individual is diagnosed with a neurocognitive disorder or an acquired brain injury. The diagnostic category of Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) is inclusive of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).
* Examples of diagnostic eligibility criteria referenced in the bulletin:
  + An individual is TCL eligible if diagnosed with an SPMI and/or an SMI and a co-occurring neurocognitive disorder and/or other medical condition.
  + An individual is TCL eligible if diagnosed with an SPMI and/or SMI and co-occurring ABI where it is clinically determined that the ABI is secondary to the SPMI and/or SMI.
  + An individual is not TCL eligible if, at the time of application to TCL, the individual has been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s Disease and/or dementia, even if the person is also diagnosed with an SPMI and/or SMI.
  + An individual is not TCL eligible if diagnosed with an ABI and a co-occurring SPMI and/or SMI where their ABI is clinically determined to be the primary source of the SPMI and/or SMI.
* If you have questions, please contact Brad Owen at: brad.owen@dhhs.nc.gov.

**Joint Communication Bulletin #J427** titled, *Reinstitution of the NC Innovations Waiver Back-Up Staffing Report* went out on July 22, 2022.

* This bulletin provides an update to the NC Innovations Waiver Back-Up Staffing Report. The NC Innovations Waiver Back-Up Staffing Report was put on hold at the beginning of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. The NC Innovations Waiver Back-up Staffing Report is being reinstituted effective Aug. 16, 2022 or an earlier date conveyed by the applicable LME/MCO.
* If you have any questions, please contact Kenneth Bausell at: [kenneth.bausell@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:kenneth.bausell@dhhs.nc.gov).

**Joint Communication Bulletin #J428** entitled,*Opioid Treatment Programs – Request for Temporary Waiver* went out on August 9, 2022.

* This bulletin provides an update to LME/MCO Joint Communication Bulletin #J422 Extension of COVID-19 Flexibility for Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs) Take Home Dosing issued July 6, 2022.
* The Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has granted a temporary exemption from the unsupervised take-home medication requirements of 42 C.F.R. § 8.12(i) that are necessary to dispense up to 28 days of take-home doses of opioid use disorder medication to stable patients if the OTP believes the patient can safely handle this amount of take-home medication, and dispense up to 14 days of take-home doses of opioid use disorder medication to less stable patients if the OTP believes the patient can safely handle this amount of take-home medication. The waiver will cover take-home flexibilities for Medicaid and state-funded OTP services.
* Additional attachments include the below with instructions for completing:
  + Opioid Treatment Program Waiver Memo
  + Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) Waiver Request
* If you have any questions, please contact If you have any questions, please contact Howard Anthony at: [howard.anthony@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:howard.anthony@dhhs.nc.gov).

**Joint Communication Bulletin #J429 titled,** *Terminating Requirement of the LOCUS and CALOCUS* went out on August 17, 2022.

* Effective Aug. 15, 2022, NC Medicaid will no longer require the use of the Level of Care Utilization System (LOCUS) for adults or the Child and Adolescent Level of Care Utilization System (CALOUS). Language referencing the LOCUS has been removed from Clinical Coverage Policy 8G - Peer Support Services.
* If you have any questions, please contact June Freeman at: [june.freeman@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:june.freeman@dhhs.nc.gov).

**Joint Communication Bulletin #J430 titled,** *Resuming of Provider Monitoring by LME-MCOs* was disseminated on August 26, 2022.

* This bulletin provides guidance for LME/MCOs to resume conducting reviews of providers, including desk reviews and site reviews (since 8/15/22 was the end of *the State of Emergency to Coordinate Response and Protective Actions to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19).* LME/MCOs should resume conducting reviews of providers, including desk reviews and site reviews.
* If you have any questions regarding this communication, please contact Greg Daniels at: gregory.daniels@dhhs.nc.gov.

**PHE Ending**: NC Medicaid’s new webpage provides guidance on preparation for the end of the Public Health Emergency:

[medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/End-of-PHE](https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/End-of-PHE)

* Includes information and resources for:
* beneficiaries
* providers
* community partners, including a [communications toolkit](https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/End-of-PHE-Toolkit)
* Feel free to share with your partners and stakeholders.

**Tailored Plan 101: Ready, Set, Launch Series**

A new series of monthly webinars held over the next six months to prepare for the launch of Tailored Plans in December 2022

* Held Monthly on the third Thursday of the month
  + Sept. 15, 2022 - Countdown to Tailored Plan Launch: Who is Who
  + Oct. 20, 2022 - Countdown to Tailored Plan Launch: Health Plan Accountability and Reporting
  + Nov. 17, 2022 - What ifs of Tailored Plan Launch, Quick Reference Guides, Practice Supports
* The latest schedule, registration and information on previous webinars, including the recording, slides, and transcripts are available on the AHEC Medicaid Managed Care website.

[www.ncahec.net/medicaid-managed-care](http://www.ncahec.net/medicaid-managed-care)

**Joint DMH/DD/SAS and DHB Calls**

* Joint DMH/DD/SAS and DHB Provider Calls
  + Held 1st Thursday of the Month
  + Sept. 1, 2022, 3:00-4:00 p.m.
  + Join Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2709996420814242318>
* Joint DMH/DD/SAS and DHB Consumer Calls
  + Held 4th Wednesday of the Month
  + Sept. 26, 2022, 2:00-3:00 p.m.
  + Join Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4017165113146883851>

Additional Resources:

* + NC Medicaid Enrollment Broker
    - Website [ncmedicaidplans.gov](file:///\\10.17.139.240\users\ljackson\ncmedicaidplans.gov)
    - Call Center 833–870–5500
    - Tailored Pan webpage [ncmedicaidplans.gov/learn/get-answers/tailored-plan-services](https://ncmedicaidplans.gov/learn/get-answers/tailored-plan-services)
  + NC Medicaid Ombudsman
    - Website ncmedicaidombudsman.org
    - Phone 877-201-3750 (Monday–Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

NC Medicaid Behavioral Health I/DD Tailored Plan

* + - Webpage [medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/BehavioralHealth\_IDD\_TailoredPlan](file:///\\10.17.139.240\https:\medicaid.ncdhhs.gov\BehavioralHealth_IDD_TailoredPlan)
  + [Behavioral Health I/DD Tailored Plan Fact Sheet for Providers](https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/media/10863/download?attachment)
  + [Behavioral Health I/DD Tailored Plan Fact Sheet for Beneficiaries](https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/media/10862/download?attachment)

DMH/DD/SAS Leadership Updates:

* Deputy Secretary for Health Mark Benton and Dave Richard, Deputy Secretary, NC Medicaid have been interviewing applicants for both our Division Director position and the Chief Operating officer position and feel that they have some strong candidates for both vacancies.