COMMUNITY HEALTH CHOICES UPDATE
What You Need to Know about the Statewide Transition Plan

Below are the most recent updates with the Managed Care transition.

Community HealthChoices (CHC) is a new initiative that will use managed care organizations to coordinate physical health care and long-term services and supports (LTSS) for older persons, persons with physical disabilities and Pennsylvanians who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid (dual eligibles).

The Department of Human Services (DHS) announced through a request for proposals that they have selected the following Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) to proceed with negotiations to deliver services on a statewide basis:
1. AmeriHealth Caritas – CHCProviders@amerihealthcaritas.com
2. UPMC for You – CHCProviders@UPMC.edu
3. Pennsylvania Health & Wellness (Centene) – information@pahealthwellness.com

Community HealthChoices (CHC) will be phased in across the state over the next two years using five geographic zones. The anticipated implementation date for the Southwest region is January 2018.

Providers, like UDS, who wish to continue to provide services to participants, need to enroll with one or more of the MCOs. United Disabilities Services has enrolled with AmeriHealth Caritas and UPMC for You for Service Coordination. It is our current understanding that PA Health & Wellness will hire their own Service Coordinators and not contract with providers like UDS. It is UDS’s belief that this internal model of having the MCO hire their own Service Coordinators does not create enough separation or safeguards for the participant who may need to challenge the MCO. UDS prefers to contract with providers that share similar values surrounding participant care. Your Service Coordinator will be providing you with more information this summer.

CHC initial information is to be mailed to participants in late Summer 2017. Service Coordinators will begin CHC communication at that time.

For more information, visit www.dhs.pa.gov.
COMMON QUESTIONS

1. What is CHC?
Community Health Choices is a new initiative that will use managed care organizations to coordinate physical health care and Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) for older persons, persons with physical disabilities, and Pennsylvanians who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid (dual eligibles).

2. Will the current Office of Long Term Living waiver programs continue to operate as separate waivers?
With the exception of the OBRA waiver, one primary CHC waiver will be established to cover all participants who meet the eligibility for nursing facility level of care. As CHC rolls out across the state, participants will transition from the waiver they are enrolled in, to the CHC waiver. The OBRA waiver will continue to serve 18 through 20 year olds and those who are 21 years and older who meet the intermediate care facility/other related conditions level of care.

3. Who is responsible for service coordination in CHC?
The CHC-MCOs will be responsible for assuring that service coordination is provided. That will be done either through contracts with service coordination entities like UDS or through internal employees of the MCO. UDS has enrolled with AmeiHealth Caritas & UPMC for You and will continue our discussions with them.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) Accreditation
UDS made the decision to pursue NCQA accreditation to enhance our quality of care.

NCQA Accreditation is the most comprehensive evaluation of health plans in the nation, and is the only assessment program whose accreditation scores are based on actual results achieved on a set of clinical measures and consumer experience measures.

PA ABLE SAVINGS PROGRAM - The Pennsylvania ABLE Savings Program (PA ABLE) is open for enrollment. PA ABLE is an extraordinary, new, low-cost saving vehicle that allows people with disabilities and their families to have greater control of their finances and to plan for a more financially secure future. If you want to learn more about the features and benefits of the PA ABLE Savings Program, please visit PAABLE.gov or call 855-529-ABLE (2253).

For faster and more efficient communication, please send your email to us at: ADVOCATE@udservices.org