

Open for Public Comment: Proposed Amendment to the Adult Autism Waiver (AAW)

ODP Announcement 19-117

AUDIENCE:

Individuals and Families, Administrative Entities (AEs), Supports Coordination Organizations (SCOs) and Providers of the Adult Autism Waiver, and other interested parties

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this communication is to announce that the proposed amendment to the Adult Autism Waiver is available for public review and comment. **There is a 30-day public comment period that starts on September 7, 2019 and ends on October 7, 2019.**

DISCUSSION:

The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) is pleased to announce the opportunity for public comment on proposed changes (referred to as a waiver amendment) to the Adult Autism Waiver. As part of this process, ODP is seeking your valuable feedback and comments on the proposed waiver amendment.

Whenever substantive changes are made to an approved waiver, ODP must submit an amendment to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for approval. ODP proposes to amend the Adult Autism Waiver as follows:

- Add a new service, non-medical Transportation.
- Revise provider qualifications for all employment-related services to require certification by July 1, 2020.
- Revise the frequency of verification of provider qualifications from every 30 months to every 36 months.

- Require providers to execute an ODP Waiver Provider Agreement to replace the current Adult Autism Waiver Provider Supplemental Agreement.
- Add reserved capacity for participants to re-enroll in the Adult Autism Waiver after a stay in a hospital or rehabilitative care lasting more than 30 days.
- Revise performance measures and terminology to align with the other ODP waivers.
- Transition from an interest list to a waiting list based upon level of care determinations conducted by the Administrative Entities (AEs).
- Revise the service definitions of employment-related services to add a provision for accessing those services during a period when the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) is operating under a closed order of selection.

The proposed amendment to the Adult Autism Waiver is available at:

<http://dhs.pa.gov/citizens/autismservices/adultautismwaiver/aawamendment/index.htm>

Please note that the proposed effective date of October 1, 2019, will be pushed back after the conclusion of the public comment period.

Information regarding the proposed waiver amendment changes, including how to provide comments, can be found in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*, Volume 49, Number 36 published on Saturday, September 7, 2019 at:

<https://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol49/49-36/1374.html>

COMMENTS:

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments regarding the proposed waiver amendment as outlined below. Comments received by 11:59 p.m. on October 7, 2019 will be reviewed and considered for revisions to the waiver amendment submitted to CMS.

Comments should be addressed to Laura Cipriani, Department of Human Services, Office of Developmental Programs, 625 Forster Street, Room 510, Harrisburg, PA 17120. Comments may also be submitted to ODP at RA-odpcomment@pa.gov using subject header "AAW Amendment".

Webinar

ODP will also hold a webinar to receive comments on the proposed waiver amendment. Date, time and link for registration to attend this webinar are as follows:

September 16, 2019
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The following link must be used to register for the above webinar:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5591990095297686285>

Participants are able to participate in the webinar by phone; but will need a computer to provide comments during the webinar. To assist ODP in accurately capturing comments provided during the webinar, individuals are asked to submit a written copy of their comments by email or by mail to the address provided above.

Persons with a disability who require an auxiliary aid or service may submit comments using the Pennsylvania Relay Service by dialing 711 or by using one of the following toll-free numbers:

- (800) 654-5984 (TDD users)
- (800) 654-5988 (voice users)
- (844) 308-9292 (Speech-to-Speech) or
- (844) 308-9291 (Spanish)

Copies of the proposed waiver amendment may be obtained by contacting the Bureau of Autism Services at the following address or email:

P.O. Box 2675, Harrisburg, PA 17105, RA-odpautismwaiver@pa.gov

CONTACT:

Questions about this communication should be directed to RA-odpcomment@pa.gov.