



DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS BULLETIN

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

DATE OF ISSUE
May 16, 2008

EFFECTIVE DATE
July 1, 2007

NUMBER
00-08-09

SUBJECT:

**Approved Consolidated Waiver Fiscal Year
Amendment**

BY:

Deputy Secretary for Developmental Programs

SCOPE:

Administrative Entity Administrators or Directors
Supports Coordination Organizations
Providers of Consolidated Waiver Services

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to transmit the Office of Developmental Programs' (ODP's) approved Consolidated Waiver Fiscal Year amendment, effective July 1, 2007. All Administrative Entities, Supports Coordination Organizations, and other providers of Consolidated Waiver services must comply with the requirements and procedures outlined in the approved Consolidated Waiver amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Home and Community-based Waiver services provided under Section 1915(c) of the Social Security Act, with the exception of new Waivers, are approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for five-year renewal periods. New Waivers are approved for an initial three-year period. This amendment is being approved for a five-year period, as its primary purpose is to align the renewal dates to the State Fiscal Year. The CMS renewal and amendment of Waivers is based on the satisfactory performance of Waiver operations during the prior approval period, a written application that outlines the design of the Waiver in a manner consistent with federal regulations, and assurance by the State that federal Waiver requirements will be met.

The Consolidated Waiver was previously approved by CMS for a five-year period that began on December 23, 2006. In March 2007, ODP submitted an amendment to CMS to align the renewal dates of the Consolidated Waiver to the State Fiscal Year. During the review of the amendment, CMS identified some issues with the provision of case management for Consolidated Waiver participants. Case management has been provided to Consolidated Waiver participants through the Pennsylvania Medical Assistance State Plan since 2001. As a means of correcting the issues identified by CMS, ODP decided to add case management, as Supports Coordination, to the Consolidated Waiver. CMS delayed the approval of the Consolidated Waiver Fiscal Year amendment to provide ODP with additional time to make changes necessary to add Supports Coordination to the Consolidated Waiver.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

The Appropriate Regional Office

DISCUSSION:

CMS approved ODP's application to amend the Consolidated Waiver, for a five-year period on April 16, 2008. The amendment is effective July 1, 2007 as per the attached letter from CMS to Estelle B. Richman, Secretary of Public Welfare. The attached approved Consolidated Waiver Fiscal Year amendment establishes the design, policies, procedures, and requirements for the provision of Consolidated Waiver services during the renewal period.

Several modifications have been made to the Consolidated Waiver to update the renewal dates and to reflect the change in administration of case management, most notably:

- Aligning the renewal dates to the State Fiscal Year, beginning on July 1, 2007.
- Adding case management, known as Supports Coordination, as a Waiver service.

The approved Consolidated Waiver Fiscal Year amendment includes the role of the County Mental Retardation Programs and non-governmental entities as Administrative Entities responsible for many of the day-to-day Waiver operations. Please refer to Appendix A of the Consolidated Waiver for details on these responsibilities. Additional details are incorporated into the Administrative Entity Operating Agreement, which has been executed between ODP and each Administrative Entity.

Any future amendments to the Consolidated Waiver, which are approved by CMS, will be distributed under the ODP bulletin format. Administrative Entities, Supports Coordination Organizations, and other Consolidated Waiver service providers are responsible for instituting changes necessitated by such amendments.

All Administrative Entities must retain a copy of the approved Consolidated Waiver Fiscal Year amendment, and any future amendments, for the duration of the five-year renewal period. Supports Coordination Organizations, and other Consolidated Waiver service providers should also retain a copy of the Consolidated Waiver Fiscal Year amendment, and any future amendments, during the five-year renewal period.

OBSOLETE BULLETINS:

00-06-16, *Approved Consolidated Waiver*

ATTACHMENTS:

CMS approval letter to Secretary Richman
Approved Consolidated Waiver Fiscal Year Amendment
Addendum 1, Consolidated Waiver