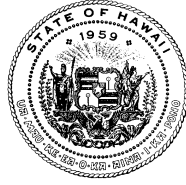


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VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

In reply, please refer to:
File:

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES DIVISION
COMMUNITY RESOURCES BRANCH
3627 KILAUEA AVENUE, ROOM 411
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816

DDD Medicaid Waiver Program
Memo No.: 2016-04
Date: April 15, 2016

TO: DD/ID Medicaid Waiver Program Providers

FROM: Debra Tsutsui, Chief
Community Resources Branch

SUBJECT: Provider Survey for Waiver Rate Study

The Department of Health, Developmental Disabilities Division (DOH/DDD), has contracted with Burns & Associates (B&A) to conduct an in-depth rate study that meets the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requirements for the waiver renewal application. Rates are an important component in the delivery of quality waiver services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). B&A has consulted in more than 20 states and brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the process.

Provider input is vital to the rate study process. The purpose of this letter is to inform you about current and upcoming activities, including those that need your participation and feedback.

Provider Advisory Group: DOH/DDD has convened a representative group of 14 providers that will serve as a Provider Advisory Group. This group was invited in order to reflect a diverse cross-section of providers, including those that serve different islands and regions, vary in size and types of services rendered, and other factors. The Provider Advisory Group will represent the larger community of providers, offer an “on-the-ground perspective” throughout the project and review materials. The first meeting was held on March 11, 2016 where B&A gave an overview of the project. This group will be asked to review the survey questions and participate in a conference call with B&A next week.

All Provider Survey: Once the Provider Advisory Group has reviewed the survey questions, B&A will send a provider survey to every provider of services under the Medicaid HCBS Waiver for Persons with I/DD. The survey focuses on service delivery and costs. Providers will have approximately three to four weeks to complete the survey. Filling out the survey is voluntary; however, your agency is strongly encouraged to participate in order that B&A

receives as much information as possible to inform the rate study process. Please note that no provider-specific information will be released to DOH/DDD; only summarized aggregate results will be available to DOH/DDD. B&A will be available throughout the survey process to provide technical assistance to agencies as they complete the survey. More information about the survey and timelines will be forthcoming in the very near future.

Rate Models: B&A will use the information gathered from the provider surveys and a number of other sources to develop rate models. Factors may include costs related to expenses such as direct care worker wages, benefits, productivity, program supports, administration, transportation-related costs, attendance/occupancy, staffing ratios, rent for facilities, supplies and other factors.

Informal Public Comment: Prior to the formal public comment period required by CMS, B&A and DOH/DDD will offer an informal comment period to receive feedback on the rate models. The feedback will be used to make any adjustments that may be needed.

Formal Public Comment: As required by CMS, the Department of Human Services/Med-QUEST Division (DHS/MQD) will complete a formal 30-day public notice and comment prior to submitting the amendment with the new rates to CMS. This formal comment period will occur after the informal public comment is finished and is projected to occur later this fall.

Additional detailed information will be provided as soon as it becomes available. Please consider participation in the provider survey to be a high priority and to submit your information to B&A within the timelines that will be attached to the survey.

We look forward to partnering with you as we complete the rate study process. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Community Resources Branch at (808) 733-2135.

c: Mary Brogan, Administrator, DOH/DDD
Judy Mohr Peterson, Administrator, DHS/MQD