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Director

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE FINANCING AND POLICY

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Suzanne Bierman,
JD MPH
Administrator

Notice of Meeting to Solicit Public Comments and Intent to Act Upon Amendments to the State Plan for Medicaid Services

Public Hearing January 25, 2022 Summary

Date and Time of Meeting: January 25, 2022 at 9:03 AM

Name of Organization: State of Nevada, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP)

Place of Meeting: DHCFP
1100 E. William Street
First Floor Conference Room
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Teleconference and/or Microsoft Teams Attendees

(Note: This List May Not Include All Participants, Just Those Who Identified Themselves)

Gabriel Lither, Senior Deputy Attorney General (SDAG)
Dr. Antonina Capurro, Deputy Administrator
Casey Angres, Manager of Division Compliance, DHCFP
Abigail Bailey, DHCFP
Sheri Rasmussen, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, (DWSS)
Robyn Gonzalez, DHCFP
Joy Cleveland
Cynthia Magana, DHCFP
Charles Duarte, Nevada Public Policy and Advocacy Director
Jackie Matter
Temyka Miller
Kyril Plaskon, DHCFP
Adele Solomon

Nettie Parker
Cindy Heldenbrand
Megan Quintana, DHCFP
Maribeth C. Capen
Amy Levin, MD
Ryan Sunga
Barry Gold, Director of Government Relations for AARP of Nevada
Ellen Frias-Wilcox, DHCFP
Tiffany N. Saunders-Newey, Anthem
Donalda Binstock
Lawrence Henry
Rianna White

Introduction:

Casey Angres, Manager of Division Compliance, DHCFP, opened the Public Hearing introducing herself, Dr. Antonina Capurro, Deputy Administrator of DHCFP and Gabe Lither, SDAG.

Casey Angres – The notice for this public hearing was published on December 23, 2021 in accordance with 42 CFR 422.2369.

1. Public Comments

No comments.

2. Amendments to the Medicaid State Plan

Subject: Medicaid State Plan Attachment 2.6A Page 4b – Financial Eligibility

Megan Quintana, Policy Specialist, Home and Community Based Waiver Services, DHCFP:

DHCFP is proposing updates to Medicaid State Plan Attachment 2.6-A Pg. 4b – Financial Eligibility. The state is proposing to set the Community Spouse income allowance for individuals living in an institutionalized setting at the maximum permitted. This change will allow DWSS to assign the Maximum Monthly Maintenance Needs Allowance to the community spouse once the institutionalized (or considered to be institutionalized) spouse receives their personal needs allowance, without requiring a court-ordered spousal division of income. The maximum will be adjusted based on increases in the Federal Maximum each year.

This proposed change affects all Medicaid-enrolled providers delivering Home and Community Based Waiver Services for Frail Elderly and Physically Disabled. Those provider types (PT) include but are not limited to Frail Elderly (PT 48), Residential Group Home (PT 57), Physically Disabled (PT 58) and Assisted Living (PT 59).

There is no anticipated change in annual aggregate expenditures.

The proposed effective date for these changes is January 1, 2022.

At the conclusion of Megan Quintana’s presentation, Casey Angres asked Dr. Antonina Capurro and Gabe Lither if they had any questions or comments, they had none.

Public Comments:

Barry Gold, Director of Government Relations for AARP of Nevada, advised AARP strongly believes federal and state governments should make permanent the financial protections that prevent the impoverishment of spouses of Medicaid Home or Community Based Services (HCBS) participants. States should set the highest community spouse resource allowance in Spousal Maintenance Needs Allowance possible under federal law to provide community spouses with the greatest financial protection. AARP strongly support these changes and thank the state for considering and doing these as quickly as possible.

Charles Duarte, Nevada Public Policy and Advocacy Director, who also serves as the Legislative Committee Chair for the Commission on Aging, said this particular policy change was put forward by DHCFP and DWSS and presented to the Commission on Aging Legislative Subcommittee last year. It was an initiative that gained support from the commission. He advised he wanted to give thanks to all for making this change without the need for legislation. He expressed thanks on behalf of the Commission and the Alzheimer’s Association for making this change and making the eligibility process for individuals applying for Medicaid much simpler as well as that of their spouses.

Casey Angres – Closed the Public Hearing for Medicaid State Plan Attachment 2.6A Page 4b – Financial Eligibility.

7. Adjournment

There were no further comments and Casey Angres closed the public hearing at 9:08 AM.

****An Audio (CD) version of this meeting is available through the DHCFP Compliance office. For more detailed information on any of the handouts, submittals, testimony and or comments please contact Jenifer Graham at jenifer.graham@dncfp.nv.gov with any questions.***