



## Public Meeting on Renewal of the Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver for Medically Complex Children Summary

**Date:** September 27, 2011

**Time:** 3:00-4:30pm

**Location:** Family Connections, 2712 Middleburg Drive, Columbia, SC

**Subject:** Renewal of Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver for Medically Complex Children

**Objective:** To provide the public information about the State's intent to request a 5-year renewal of the Medically Complex Children's (MCC) home and community-based waiver program, and the opportunity to provide comments.

### Information provided at meeting:

- Current waiver status
  1. The MCC waiver was developed to provide a system of care to medically complex children statewide.
  2. Waiver enrollment: approximately 200 children, which includes approximately 35 foster care children.
  3. Waiver waiting list: approximately 100 children: The waiting list policy is based on a first come-first served basis, with the following 3 target groups given priority for waiver enrollment: children being discharged from the hospital, children in foster care, and children who require skilled nursing services.
- Eligibility criteria

The following are the primary criteria that must be met to enter the waiver program:

1. Be Medicaid eligible and under 18 years of age;
2. Meet Nursing Facility (NF) or Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICF/MR) criteria;
3. Meet Medical Eligibility Criteria that indicates the child has:
  - a) A serious illness or condition that is expected to last longer than 12 months, and which generally makes the child dependent upon comprehensive medical, nursing, health supervision or intervention; and
  - b) Significant medication, hospitalization, therapy, nursing care, and specialist needs.

- Waiver services:
  1. Care Coordination by a Registered Nurse
  2. Limited Incontinence Supplies (diapers/briefs, wipes, and underpads)
  3. Pediatric Medical Day Care
  4. In-home Respite provided by a licensed nurse

- Intake and referral process:

Anyone can initiate a referral for the waiver program by mail, fax, e-mail, or telephone to:

SC Department of Health and Human Services

Attn: MCC Waiver, J909

P.O. Box 8206

Columbia, SC 29202-8206

[hickersm@scdhhs.gov](mailto:hickersm@scdhhs.gov)

803-898-2577 (tel)

803-255-8204 (fax)

- Pre-Admission Screening and Children's Private Duty Nursing Service:

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has implemented a pre-admission screening to expedite the processing of referrals and for coordinating the waiver program with the Medicaid State Plan Children's Private Duty Nursing service.

- Waiver Renewal/Outcomes:

1. DHHS intends to renew the MCC waiver for a new 5-year period without making any substantive changes to the current waiver program (with projections to annually increase enrollment over the 5-year period).
2. In conjunction with the State's hospitals, DHHS plans to reduce the extent of children's hospital stays through more appropriate discharges from the NICU/PICU by facilitating care in the community through the coordination of the Children's Private Duty Nursing service and waiver care coordination monitoring.
3. Through monthly care coordination monitoring and facilitation of regular physician visits, DHHS plans to continue preventing unnecessary emergency room visits and hospital stays.

**Comments received at meeting:**

- Provide more communication with the referring physician and other referral sources to update them on the status of their patient/applicant in the waiver referral process.

- Evaluate and improve the Referral/Intake process to determine and implement a more efficient process for all parties involved.
- Consider revising the Medical Eligibility Criteria scoring process to add a difficulty of care designation for foster care children.
- Related to the current In-home Respite Care service:
  1. Consider adding a non-skilled respite service to serve children without skilled needs.
  2. Consider increasing the service limit up to 48 hours per month to reduce caregiver breakdown.
  3. Consider allowing families to bank authorized, but unused time.
  4. Consider the use of rural hospitals to provide an institutional respite care service.
  5. Consider a cooperative/volunteer type arrangement that utilizes the skilled and trained foster parents to provide respite care by individuals.
- Consider how to increase the availability of Pediatric Medical Day Care service providers across the state.
- Consider increasing the service limits for incontinence supplies.
- Post the Medical Eligibility Criteria and Assessment on the DHHS website.
- Collect waiver data and information related to<sup>1</sup>:
  1. Length of stay for waiver enrollment and on the waiting list;
  2. Level of Care;
  3. Hospital, emergency room, and physician sick visits;
  4. Medicaid eligibility, and Medical Eligibility Criteria; and
  5. Cost information for the waiver participants, post-waiver participants, and related comparison groups.

---

<sup>1</sup> SCDHHS contracts with the University of South Carolina Institute for Families in Society to assist with data analysis and program evaluations.