South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Medical Care Advisory Committee
Item for Committee Advisement

PREPARED BY: Sam Waldrep

PRESENTED BY: Sam Waldrep

DATE: February 6, 2014

SUBJECT: Amendment of the three 1915(c) Medicaid Home and Community-Based Service (HCBS) Waivers operated by the Community Long Term Care (CLTC) Program

OBJECTIVE: Through amendments to these waivers, dual eligible beneficiaries age 65+ will be able to receive HCBS while participating in the new Healthy Connections Prime Program.

BACKGROUND: The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) proposes to file amendments with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to three (3) of its home and community based waivers operated through the CLTC Program. These waivers are: HIV/AIDS, Community Choices, and Mechanical Ventilator Dependent.

These changes will enable SCDHHS to implement a joint Medicare-Medicaid demonstration program known as Healthy Connections Prime. Through Healthy Connections Prime, people age 65 and older who receive both Medicare and Medicaid and meet other eligibility criteria will receive all of their care, including primary care, behavioral health and long term care services, from a Coordinated and Integrated Care Organization (CICO). These amendments will allow eligible waiver participants to enroll in Healthy Connections Prime and to participate in one of these CLTC waivers. There will be substantive and technical changes to sections of each waiver document to allow this, but no adverse changes are anticipated for participants who are enrolled in both Healthy Connections Prime and a CLTC waiver. Enrollment in Healthy Connections Prime is totally voluntary.

BUDGETARY IMPACT: During its three years of operation, CMS requires that Healthy Connection Prime operates at 1%, 2% and 3% savings over the traditional fee for service option.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES: Dual eligible persons 65+ participating in Healthy Connections Prime will be able to receive HCBS if needed and to have these long term care services coordinated and integrated with primary care and behavioral health services.

EXTERNAL GROUPS AFFECTED: Full dual eligible beneficiaries, providers, and the five (5) CICOs selected to participate in Healthy Connections Prime will be impacted by this action. Notification of the intent to file these amendments has been circulated to listserv of interested parties maintained by SCDHHS who have requested notification of waiver amendments and renewals. Copies of these amendments will also be posted to the SCDHHS website at the time they are filed with CMS.

RECOMMENDATION: To request from CMS amendments to the Community Choices, HIV/AIDS and Mechanical Ventilator Dependent Waivers to allow for eligible beneficiaries to be concurrently enrolled in one of these waivers and the Healthy Connections Prime Program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The changes are proposed to be effective July 1, 2014, which is the date that eligible beneficiaries can begin voluntary enrollment in Healthy Connections Prime.