

Feb. 6, 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUBJECT: Palmetto Coordinated System of Care 1915(b)/(c) Waiver Applications

The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) gives notice that an 1915(c) application for the [Palmetto Coordinated System of Care \(PCSC\) waiver](#) will be submitted to the Centers of Medicaid and Medicare (CMS). A concurrent [1915\(b\)\(4\) waiver application](#) will also be submitted to CMS to allow SCDHHS to selectively contract with the South Carolina Continuum of Care to provide the primary waiver service, High Fidelity Wraparound (HFW). Both applications are available for public review and comment. The waiver will be effective upon CMS approval.

The following is a summary of the proposed concurrent waiver program:

South Carolina is developing the PCSC for children and youth with significant behavioral health needs or co-occurring conditions in or at imminent risk of out-of-home placement. PCSC is an evidence-based approach that is part of a national movement to develop family-driven and youth-guided care, and keep children at home, in school and out of the child welfare and juvenile justice systems when possible. The waiver will provide home and community-based supports and services to children with significant behavioral health needs who would otherwise be served in an inpatient general or psychiatric hospital.

Research has shown that effective home and community-based services can be less costly and provide better outcomes for children, youth and their families. Waiver services include:

1. HFW care coordination (an evidence-based process of care coordination and planning)
2. Individual goods and services
3. Respite

Services are provided using a system of care approach. There is a single point of entry for all waiver applicants and applicants are evaluated to determine eligibility for the waiver. Children, youth and their families who enter the waiver participate in a child and family team meeting to develop a person-centered plan. The team includes individuals involved with the family and any representatives the family chooses to attend. Once the team develops a plan, the family may choose from enrolled qualified public and private providers. If the family has a provider who they have been working with who is not a qualified provider, efforts are made to contact the provider to discuss their interest in enrolling. The child and family team will meet at least every 90 days, or more often if requested, to discuss treatment progress and any changes. Annual reevaluations are conducted to determine continued eligibility for waiver participation. SCDHHS, as the agency that operates Medicaid for the state, has both the operational and administrative authority over the waiver.

Communication

This proposed waiver was discussed at SCDHHS' Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC) meeting Feb. 9, 2016, at 10 a.m. at 1801 Main Street, Columbia, S.C. An update was provided on May 9, 2017. Public comments

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on the originally noticed waiver application were compiled and posted on the SCDHHS website September 18, 2017.

A copy of this notice, the PCSC waiver application and a copy of the draft concurrent waiver application are available at the following locations:

1. Electronic Access: www.scdhhs.gov (under the “Public Notice” and “Waiver” sections)
2. Hardcopies:
 - a. All Healthy Connections Medicaid local eligibility offices
 - b. SCDHHS lobby at 1801 Main Street, Columbia, S.C.

Public Comments and Responses

Your questions and comments about the PCSC waiver program are very important. Input received may help make changes to how this program is implemented and how the program can reach children, youth and their families who might qualify.

If you have a question or comment, please send it to the following email or mailing address before March 9, 2020:

Email: comments@scdhhs.gov

Mail: Palmetto Coordinated System of Care
ATTN: Janice Bailiff
South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Post Office Box 8206
Columbia, S.C. 29202-8206

Questions will be compiled, answered and posted on the SCDHHS website under the “Public Notice” and “Waiver” sections after April 1, 2020. If you would like to receive an electronic copy of a summary of the public comments and responses, please provide your email address in correspondence you send. If you would like to review a hard copy of the summary of public comments and responses, they may be reviewed at the local Healthy Connections Medicaid eligibility offices after April 1, 2020.

View the proposed application for the Palmetto Coordinated System of Care (PCSC) waiver on the [waiver management page](#) of the SCDHHS website at www.scdhhs.gov, under “Useful Tools,” then “Waivers.”