

VENTILATOR DEPENDENT WAIVER  
RENEWAL

AUGUST 27, 2012



# BACKGROUND

- Long term care services provide ongoing help to people who are frail and unable to care for themselves. These services include assistance with activities of daily living (e.g., bathing, dressing, toileting, transfer) and instrumental activities of daily living (laundry, light housekeeping, errands, prompting to take medications, etc.).
- These services can be provided in an institutional setting (nursing facility) or in a person's own home.
- CLTC is designed to provide home and community-based options to institutional care.



## BACKGROUND

- When Medicare was created, it offered only very limited long term care services. People needing care in a nursing home could expect very limited assistance from Medicare.
- When Medicaid was created (1965), it provided nursing home care. However, initially, there was no home based option that people could use.
- It was thought that people could not be cared for safely and cost effectively in their own homes the way they could be cared for in a nursing home.



# BACKGROUND

- States (including South Carolina), with federal backing, initiated demonstrations to test whether or not people could be adequately cared for in their own homes.
- In order to succeed, states had to prove that persons could be cared for:
  - 1) safely
  - 2) and for no more cost than the cost of nursing home care



# MEDICAID HCBS WAIVERS

- Home & community based waivers are alternatives to institutional care
- Require special permission from the federal government & must be renewed every 5 years
- Must be cost effective
- All provide a set of services customized to the specific needs of the waiver participant. These services are updated periodically to ensure that they are adequate to maintain the participant in the home environment.



# HCBS WAIVERS

- These programs require a waiver from the federal government, while coverage for nursing facilities is mandated. This difference maintained an institutional bias.
- This changed with the Olmstead Decision (1999), a legal opinion stating that individuals have the right to receive care in the least restrictive environment possible.

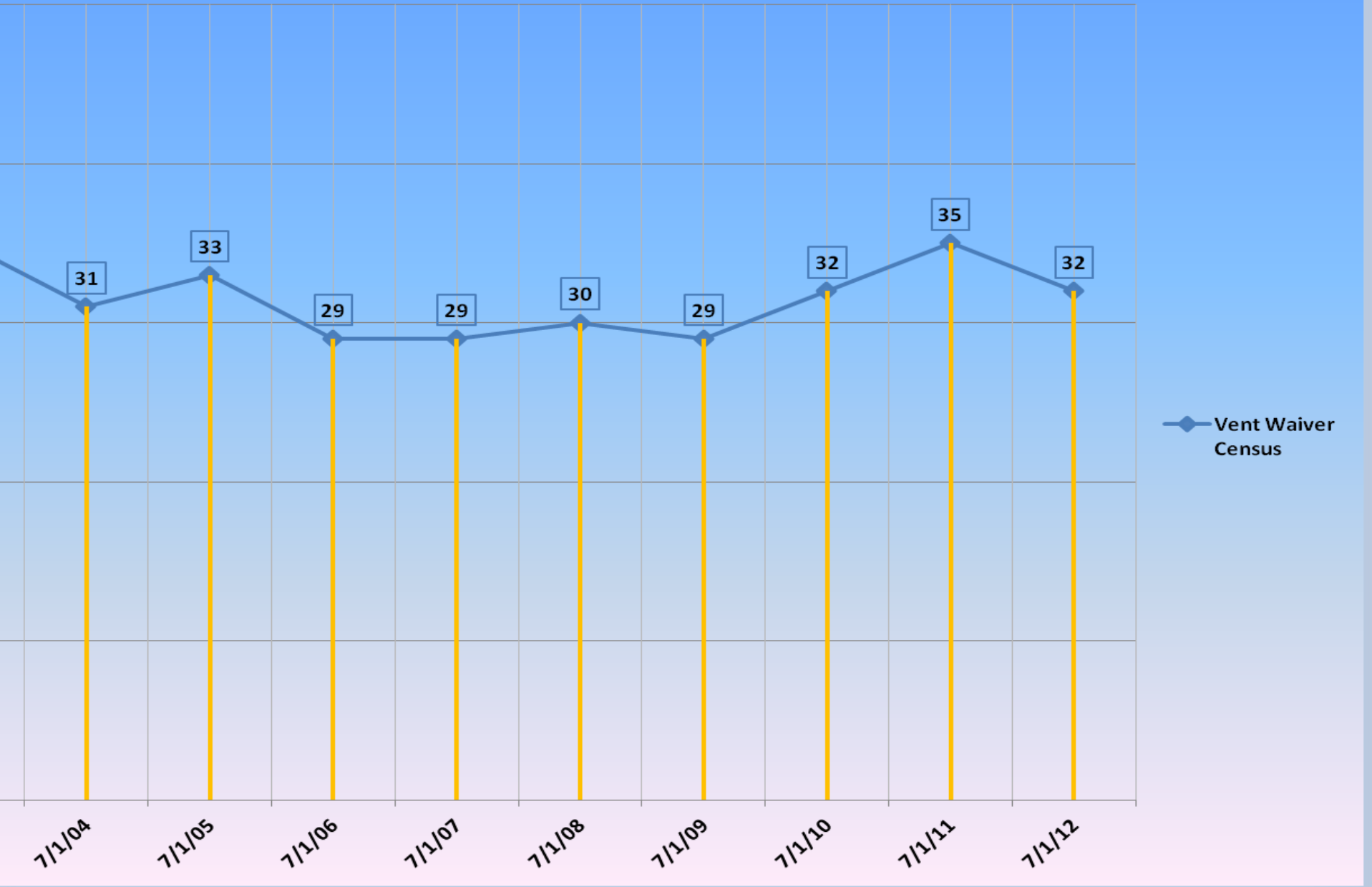


# VENTILATOR DEPENDENT WAIVER

- The purpose of the ventilator dependent waiver is to provide home and community-based supports and services to adults who meet a nursing facility level of care and are dependent upon a life sustaining ventilator six or more hours daily and who would otherwise be served in a hospital or a specialized nursing facility.
- The waiver was approved in 1994 and has been renewed three times since. This renewal must be approved prior to December 1, 2012.
- Due to the specialized medical needs of this population, registered nurses are the case managers.
- The most utilized service in this waiver is private duty nursing.



# Vent Waiver Census 2003 - 2012





# WHY ARE WE RENEWING THE VENTILATOR DEPENDENT WAIVER?

- If we choose not to renew the waiver, services will stop for waiver participants as of 11/30/12
- Waiver services have been beneficial to involved adults and families; South Carolina would like to continue offering these services.
- Without this waiver, this population would require hospitalization or placement at a specialized nursing facility . At this time, South Carolina has twenty nursing facility beds designated for ventilator dependent care. The cost for care is substantially higher than other nursing facility rates.



## WAIVER RENEWAL

- There will continue to be no waiting list for this waiver.
- The same services will be provided during the renewal period.
- This application will allow the waiver to expand the number served, if the need arises over the next 5 years.



# VENTILATOR WAIVER ELIGIBILITY

- Must be 21 years of age or older
- Must meet the nursing facility LOC and be dependent on a life sustaining ventilator a minimum of 6 hours per day
- Must be Medicaid eligible



# WAIVER SERVICES

- Nurse Consultants will work with participant and family/caretakers to develop a plan of care and choose services that will best meet their needs.
- Services are provided by enrolled Medicaid providers.
- Consumers have freedom of choice in the selection of providers.
- The waiver allows for self direction of some services.



# SERVICES - VENTILATOR WAIVER

- Personal Care I and II
- Attendant
- Respite in an institution
- In-home Respite
- Incontinence Supplies – diapers, pads, wipes, etc
- Home Modifications
- Private Duty Nursing (RN and LPN)
- Two Extra Prescription Drugs per month
- Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies
- Nutritional Supplements
- Personal Emergency Response System



QUESTIONS?

