SMOKY MOUNTAIN MCO

News You Can Use

Your monthly resource for news and information about behavioral health and intellectual/ developmental disabilities in western North Carolina and beyond

Innovations resource allocation meetings announced

Smoky will hold a series of informational meetings in late August to discuss recent updates to the 1915(c) Innovations Waiver.

Changes will take effect beginning Nov. 1, 2016. All Innovations participants in North Carolina will receive a letter notifying them of any possible changes prior to their Individual Support Plan (ISP) date over the next year.

One update in the waiver is the use of an individual budget as a planning tool to ensure participants get the services and supports they need, in the amount they need and when they need the supports. The budget is based on: age (child or adult), place of residence (group home, other Medicaid-funded home or private home) and the kind of supports needed as measured by the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS).

If the amount of current services fits within the participant's individual budget, there will be no changes to the budget. Any change in services will be based upon need. If the amount of current services is more or less than the individual budget, there may be a change in the amount of services and supports. Depending on the difference between the amount of current services and the individual budget, this change may occur gradually over a period of one to three years.

Participants always have the right to ask for what they believe is medically necessary. The individual budget is a guide for service planning that allows for exceptions. The budget can change as needs for supports change. Support changes can be discussed with the participant's care coordinator while taking part in the development of the annual ISP. Informational sessions are scheduled at the following Smoky regional office locations:

- Aug. 23, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., 825 Wilkesboro Blvd. SE, Lenoir, NC 28645
- Aug. 24, 2 –3 p.m., 44 Bonnie Lane, board room, Sylva, NC 28779
- Aug. 29, 6–7 p.m., 200 Ridgefield Court, room 301, Asheville, NC 28806
- Aug. 30, 1–2 p.m., 200 Ridgefield Court, room 301, Asheville, NC 28806

Everyone is welcome to these sessions, and you do not have to sign up in advance. If you have questions or need more information, call our Customer Services line at 1-888-757-5726.

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