

# Announcement

## Public Notice of the Adult Autism Waiver Renewal: Public Comment Period Open

**BAS Communication Number: BAW15-24**

**AUDIENCE:** All Interested Parties

**PURPOSE:** To announce that the Office of Developmental Programs, Bureau of Autism Services is making available for public review and comment from December 5, 2015 through January 11, 2016, the proposed renewal to the Adult Autism Waiver.

### **BACKGROUND & DISCUSSION:**

Home and Community-Based Waivers permitted under Section 1915(c) of the Social Security Act are approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for a 5-year renewal period. The current Adult Autism Waiver expires on June 30, 2016; therefore, the proposed waiver renewal is to be submitted to CMS no later than March 15, 2016.

In the request for a renewal of the Adult Autism Waiver, the Department proposes to revise the Adult Autism Waiver as follows:

- Update terminology used throughout the Adult Autism Waiver
- Revise several quality measures and reporting requirements
- Increase the limitation on the number of participants served at any point in time from 518 to 568 and increase the number of unduplicated participants from 544 to 596
- Add reserved capacity for ten individuals discharged from a state hospital and for three individuals transferring from the Adult Community Autism Program
- Allow use of an interim service plan when an individual has a protective services plan that specifies a need for long-term support and is enrolled in the Adult Autism Waiver using reserved capacity
- Revise the intake process for individuals 18 years of age or older but under 21 years of age
- Revise provider qualifications
- Remove occupational therapy as a service
- Combine some services into new services
- Revise the risk assessment and mitigation section
- Revise some performance measures
- Add performance measures to meet new Financial Accountability sub-assurances

The proposed effective date for the renewal of the Adult Autism Waiver is July 1, 2016.

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments **from December 5, 2015 through January 11, 2016.**

**By Mail:** Comments should be addressed to the Department of Human Services, Office of Developmental Programs, Bureau of Autism Services, Attn: Lea Sheffield, 625 Forster Street, Room 605, Harrisburg, PA 17120.

**By Email:** Comments may be submitted to the Department at [RA-odpautismwaiver@pa.gov](mailto:RA-odpautismwaiver@pa.gov). Please include "AAW Renewal" in the subject line.

Information Regarding Where to Access the Waiver Renewal

More information regarding the Adult Autism Waiver proposed renewal, including a side-by-side comparison of the proposed changes to the current approved waiver, can be found by visiting <http://www.dhs.pa.gov/learnaboutdhs/waiverinformation/adultautismwaiver/index.htm>.

This information was also posted in the Pennsylvania Bulletin, Volume 45, Number 49 published on **Saturday, December 5, 2015** at: <http://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol45/45-49/2146.html>