

# The Medicaid Waiver Review

News from Kentucky's 1915(c) Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver programs  
April 2019

## Public Comment Period for the Amended 1915(c) Waiver Applications: What's Next?

The Department for Medicaid Services (DMS) will wrap up official public comment on the amended 1915(c) Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver applications on April 15. Here's a timeline of the official public comment period:

### January 7:

DMS began the official public comment period.

### January 18:

DMS paused the official public comment period.

### March 15:

DMS re-released the waivers and began a new official public comment period.

### April 15:

DMS will end the official public comment period.

Comments submitted to DMS between January 7 and April 15 will be considered official public comment. These comments are read and responded to publicly as part of the process for having the 1915(c) HCBS waiver applications approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

## What Happens to the Comments I Submitted?

- ⇒ Each day, at least one DMS staff member reads, logs, and categorizes each comment.
- ⇒ When public comment ends, DMS staff reviews the comments and issues a public response. Changes could be made to the waivers based on the comments DMS received.
- ⇒ After issuing its response, DMS submits the waivers to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for approval. This could take up to 180 days.
- ⇒ Once approved by CMS, the waivers take effect. DMS is working to determine how changes should be implemented. Stakeholders will be kept up to date via the Division of Community Alternatives (DCA) website, educational materials, emails, and a town hall tour scheduled for summer 2019.

## Keep the Comments Coming!

DMS is always looking for stakeholder feedback. Just email [medicaidpubliccomment@ky.gov](mailto:medicaidpubliccomment@ky.gov). Comments received after April 15 will be responded to individually or through the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on the DCA website: <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms/dca/Pages/default.aspx>

## Who Reads My Comments?

Here are just a few of the DMS staff members reading the emails received via [medicaidpubliccomment@ky.gov](mailto:medicaidpubliccomment@ky.gov).



**Kelly Claes, Communications Specialist:** Kelly monitors the public comment email inbox. Kelly reads all emails received, forwards them as needed to the appropriate branches, and drafts responses to the sender.



**Lori Gresham, 1915(c) HCBS Redesign Project Manager:** Lori also monitors the public comment email inbox. Having an eye on each email helps Lori determine what issues need to be addressed through redesign. She also assists in determining how best to respond to emails.



**Pam Smith, DCA Director:** As the head of the DCA, Pam is in charge of the 1915(c) HCBS waiver programs. Kelly and Lori ensure she reads any emails that need her attention. She is also kept up to date on the types of comments received in order to ensure the division is acting in the best interest of waiver participants.



## Home and Community Based Services Advisory Panel (HCBS-AP) and Subpanels Begin Work

Around 50 1915(c) HCBS waiver stakeholders met in Frankfort on December 14, 2018 to kick off the DMS Home and Community Based Services Advisory Panel (HCBS-AP) and subpanels. During the kickoff meeting, panelists had the opportunity to learn more about their role in 1915(c) HCBS waiver redesign.

More than 125 stakeholders applied to join a panel after DMS sent an announcement to recruit panelists in late October 2018. The stakeholders chosen for the panel include waiver participants, family members, caregivers, providers, and advocates. DMS also considered which waivers each applicant had experience with and where they lived in order to ensure a

diverse panel representing all stakeholder types, waivers, and geographic regions in Kentucky.

The HCBS-AP and subpanels focusing on Case Management, Participant Directed Services (PDS), and Centralized Quality Management will advise DMS on topics related to 1915(c) HCBS redesign as they are asked. DMS will take the panel's input into consideration, but it is important to note that DMS makes all final decisions.

The panels have wasted no time in getting to work. The Case Management Subpanel held its first meeting immediately following the kickoff on December 14. The HCBS-AP, Centralized Quality Management, and Participant Directed Services subpanels all began their meetings in early 2019.

### Learn More about the HCBS-AP and Subpanels:

Minutes from each HCBS-AP and subpanel meeting are posted online to help all 1915(c) HCBS waiver stakeholders stay up to date on panel activities.

To view the minutes visit: <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms/dca/Pages/default.aspx>

## 1915(c) HCBS Rate Study Reaches Milestone

In late 2018, DMS began a study of rates for 1915(c) HCBS services with the help of Navigant Consulting, Inc. The goal of the study is to create a new rate-setting and payment methodology for waiver services.

The process started in November 2018 with meetings of the Rate Study Workgroup. The group consists of waiver participants, providers, and provider association members. The workgroup gave Navigant feedback on the development of a cost survey for 1915(c) HCBS service providers.



A group of volunteer providers took the cost survey in January 2019 to help identify any changes needed. The cost survey was then released to all providers in February 2019 with responses due by early April 2019. Navigant is now analyzing the survey data as part of the process for developing a payment methodology and proposed rates for 1915(c) HCBS waiver services. DMS does not expect any new rates to take effect until 2020.



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