

The Care Act Expand to include CDASS & IHSS Programs

(Submitted Nov. 8, 2022 for discussion at the Nov. PDPPC meeting.)

Accordingly, we would ask HCPF to move forward in developing policy change and procedure to allow the payment of attendants within the IHSS and CDASS programs while a consumer is in the hospital in accordance with The Care Act. We would ask that HCPF move forward with an administrative change or Medicaid waiver amendment as soon as possible as dictated by CMS.

The Care Act permanently allows Medicaid to pay for attendant care in hospital settings when the hospital is not able to provide such care for an individual on CDASS and IHSS. Allowing Medicaid-funded attendant care in the hospital will prevent secondary conditions such as skin break down while an individual is being treated for an acute health condition.

Allowing attendant care in hospital settings would address turn-over issues within CDASS and IHSS with regard to attendants. Currently attendants are laid-off during hospitalizations. Some may be able to collect unemployment – if they meet the criteria for # of hours worked and are not spouses or children. During extended hospital stays, attendants must seek other employment.

Allowing attendant care in hospital settings may reduce # of hospitalization days and may reduce transfer to rehab/nursing home facilities. If attendants have found other positions, they may not be available to return to the original consumer's home upon release from the hospital. The consumer will have to go through the hiring process in order to return home.

Allowing attendant care in hospital settings may reduce the need for usage of acute care home health. Current attendants know the support needs of the consumer and can quickly adjust to any new support needs.

There is no cost to the state as consumers would still need to stay within their CDASS and IHSS monthly allotment.

Please take these considerations in the next scheduled meeting with the regular voting process to allow for attendant care in hospitals - expanding the Care Act to include CDASS & IHSS Programs.

Attendant Care in-Hospital Committee: Robin Bolduc, Ashley Weber, Sandra Kasprzak, and Lorraine Grisez