

## Changes to Autism Treatment Services

### What is Changing in Coverage for Autism Treatment Services?

Currently children with behavioral treatment needs, including those with a diagnosis of autism, can get treatment and other services through the Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Waiver Program. Many children who are eligible have been put on the state autism wait list.

Starting in 2016, children who are eligible can get behavioral treatment as a regular Medicaid/ForwardHealth card benefit, like they get insurance coverage for doctor's visits. Rather than accessing treatment services through a county CLTS agency, families can go directly to a behavioral treatment provider. (Keep in mind the provider MUST be Medicaid-enrolled)

While there are still unknowns about this new system, the hope is that children should not have to go on a waitlist before treatment is available.

Children who currently use Waivers to get treatment may continue their treatment services under ForwardHealth. Their current provider will need to submit a prior authorization (PA) request, and once approved, the treatment services will be covered as a regular Medicaid benefit.

### Can Children with Autism Continue to Get Other Supports through CLTS?

Yes, they can continue to receive supports through the county CLTS Waiver Program, if eligible. They will work with a service coordinator to find needed goods and services.

### What Will the New Behavioral Treatment Benefit Look Like?

The new Medicaid benefit will include two types of treatment: comprehensive and focused.

- **Comprehensive treatment** is an early intervention approach that's meant to address multiple aspects of development and behavior in younger children. It will be treatment with more weekly hours, over a longer term.
- **Focused treatment** will target specific behaviors or developmental delays in children. It will be treatment with fewer weekly hours, over a shorter term.

As part of this new benefit Medicaid will cover evidence-based treatment, including ABA and Early Start Denver Model treatment. According to the Department of Health Services, this new benefit will be flexible and treatment hours will be based on what's best for that child.

### Will a Prior Authorization (PA) be Needed for Treatment to be Covered by Medicaid?

Yes, the child's provider will need to complete a PA request and submit it to Medicaid. The PA must show that services are medically necessary. To learn more about the PA process and how families can be involved read the new Family Voices fact sheet on prior authorizations.

To learn more about this benefit change go to the Department of Health Services website [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/clts/waiver/autism/index.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/clts/waiver/autism/index.htm)

A helpful *Frequently Asked Questions* (FAQ) document is now available on the DHS site.





## WEB WATCH

*For additional resources related to the articles in this newsletter, you can visit the following sites:*

**National Office of Family Voices**  
[www.familyvoices.org](http://www.familyvoices.org)

**Family Voices of Wisconsin**  
[www.familyvoicesofwisconsin.com](http://www.familyvoicesofwisconsin.com)  
*(This is a new website address!!)*

**DHS website on Behavior Treatment and Other Services for Children with Autism**  
[www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/clts/waiver/autism/index.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/clts/waiver/autism/index.htm)

**Family Care/IRIS 2.0**  
[www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/familycareiris2/index.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/familycareiris2/index.htm)

**Marketplace "Find Local Help"**  
[localhelp.healthcare.gov](http://localhelp.healthcare.gov)



## Did You Know? Now You Know!

### What are Integrated Health Agencies (IHAs)?

Over the next year the Department of Health Services (DHS) will be laying the groundwork for major changes to the way adult long-term supports are provided in Wisconsin, including a new system of **Integrated Health Agencies**.

While there are still many unknowns, families can learn more by going to the Department's "Family Care/IRIS 2.0" website (see Web Watch) and can sign up for "Keep Me Posted" updates.

#### What are IHAs?

**Integrated Health Agencies (IHAs)** will combine long-term care services, including supports at home, out in the community and at work (which are now provided by the Family Care and IRIS), with medical services (primary care, mental health and hospitalization). IHAs must be licensed insurers rather than local or regional agencies.

#### Will Consumers be Able to Choose between Different IHAs?

Yes, Act 55, the current state budget, requires that consumers have access to more than one IHA and they will continue to be able to choose between fully managed care models (similar to Family Care) and self-directed models (similar to the IRIS Program).

#### What is the Goal for the New System?

The goal of the new IHAs, according to a recent DHS presentation, is to have an "integration of medical and long-term care services, with a focus on the whole person, improving the quality of health care and life of the consumer."

To view the full presentation go to [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/familycareiris2/dhs-publichearing-092015.pdf](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/familycareiris2/dhs-publichearing-092015.pdf)

#### What is the Timeline for Changes?

In September and October the Department held public hearings to gather input from consumers and providers about changes to the long-term care system.

The Department is now working on developing a plan for how it will restructure the programs and must submit a *Concept Paper* by April 2016 to the Legislature. It will then make needed changes to the plan and submit a waiver request to the federal government. If approved, the new system will be implemented in 2017.

To learn more about Family Care/IRIS 2.0 go to [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/familycareiris2/index.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/familycareiris2/index.htm)

To view public comments submitted by disability advocates go to [www.survivalcoalitionwi.org](http://www.survivalcoalitionwi.org)

### Check out all the new Family Voices fact sheets!

- *Insurance Prior Authorizations*
- *Rehabilitation and Habilitation Services*
- *Supported Decision Making for Transition Age Youth*
- *Children's Community Options Program (CCOP)*

All are available at [www.familyvoicesofwisconsin.com](http://www.familyvoicesofwisconsin.com)



## Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs News



Children and Youth with  
Special Health Care Needs

### **Advocacy for Change Family Leadership Institute - March 3**

Join us on Thursday, March 3rd for **Advocacy for Change - Family Leadership Institute** at the Madison Concourse Hotel. This is a full day advocacy and systems change training for families who have children with special needs. Lynn Breedlove, a nationally recognized advocate for people with disabilities, will be the keynote and Wisconsin Representative Melissa Sargent will be the lunchtime speaker.

Participants will learn from policy experts about the latest legislative and policy priorities, including **waiting lists for children's long term supports, BadgerCare/Medicaid, special education and mental health services**. Families will then meet with their Representatives at the Capitol to educate them about issues important to families. Registration will be open in early January and space is limited! To learn more, go to the Family Voices website at [www.familyvoicesofwisconsin.com](http://www.familyvoicesofwisconsin.com)

#### **What Have Past Participants Said About *Advocacy for Change* .....**

- ◆ "It gave me the feeling I can be active to make a change for my family, friends and community!"
- ◆ "I thought advocating at the Capitol was for others. After this training, it is now for me!"
- ◆ "This event was EXCELLENT!! Life altering!"



### **Policy/Legislative Update**

#### ***Changes to the Family Support Program***

Starting in January, Wisconsin's Family Support Program will be merged with the Community Options Program (COP) to become the **Children's Community Options Program (CCOP)**. This change is part of the 2015 - 2017 state budget which directs the Department of Health Services to create the new program for children with long-term support needs. Families currently on the Family Support Program should experience few differences and the transition should be seamless. A new Family Voices of Wisconsin fact sheet with more details on CCOP is included in this newsletter.

#### ***Marketplace Open Enrollment and Penalties!***

Open enrollment for health insurance through the federal Marketplace runs through **January 31, 2016**. New plans and subsidy options to lower the cost of insurance may be available for your family so check the Marketplace website at [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov)

Penalties for not having health insurance jump in 2016 to 2.5% of household income or \$695 per adult and \$347.50 per child (whichever is higher)! Go to [www.healthcare.gov/fees/](http://www.healthcare.gov/fees/) to find out how to avoid paying these fees!

#### **CYSHCN REGIONAL CENTERS Call with your questions!**

##### **Northeast Region**

Children's Hospital of  
Wisconsin - Fox Valley  
1.877.568.5205

##### **Northern Region**

Marathon County Health  
Department  
Wausau  
1.866.640.4106

##### **Southeast Region**

Children's Hospital  
Milwaukee  
1.800.234.5437

##### **Southern Region**

Waisman Center  
Madison  
1.800.532.3321

##### **Western Region**

Chippewa County Dept of  
Public Health  
Chippewa Falls  
1.800.400.3678

##### **Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council (GLITC)**

Lac du Flambeau  
1.800.472.7207



## Family Voices of Wisconsin

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## About Family Voices of Wisconsin

Family Voices of Wisconsin (FVW) is a state affiliate organization of the national Family Voices organization and serves as Wisconsin's Family-to-Family Health Information Center. Additionally, FVW is recognized as the Family Leadership Hub for Wisconsin's Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) partnership.

Family Voices focuses its work on health care and community supports in three areas:

- Education and information development and dissemination, including trainings, fact sheets, and newsletters;
- Family leadership activities, including the annual Advocacy for Change institute; and
- Public policy and systems change activities.

### Feedback Welcome

We want to make sure that this newsletter is an effective resource for you. If you have any comments, or wish to provide news and information for us to publish, please contact Lynn at [Lynn@fvofwi.org](mailto:Lynn@fvofwi.org). We look forward to hearing from you!

**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK AND JOIN THE FAMILY ACTION NETWORK LISTSERV**  
([join-fan@lists.wisc.edu](mailto:join-fan@lists.wisc.edu))

**Would you prefer to have this newsletter emailed to you?**  
Contact Lynn at [Lynn@fvofwi.org](mailto:Lynn@fvofwi.org)

December  
2015



# Children's Community Options Program

## What's Happening to Wisconsin's Family Support Program?

Starting January 1, 2016, Wisconsin's Family Support Program will be merged with the Community Options Program to become the **Children's Community Option Program (CCOP)**. Children who are currently on the Family Support Program will be moved to CCOP and families should not experience changes.

For county agencies that manage the program, this change will mean funds for both the current Community Options Program (COP) and Family Support Program (FSP) will be combined into one amount with one set of requirements for the use of these funds.

## Why is this Change Happening?

As part of the current state budget the Department Health Services (DHS) was charged with creating CCOP. The Bureau of Children's Services within DHS made a workgroup of both government and non-government partners that will help develop program guidelines and a transition plan.

**CCOP** is the Children's Community Options Program

**FSP** is the Family Support Program

## Will There be Changes in How my Family Uses our Funds in 2016?

There should not be any changes to what families who are currently enrolled in the Family Support Program can use their funds for in 2016. This includes being directly reimbursed for the cost of goods or services that have been approved by your plan.

## **Enrolling in the Children's Community Options Program**

- To enroll contact your **County Human Services Department** ([dhs.wisconsin.gov/clts/contact.htm](http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/clts/contact.htm)) and let them know you are interested in children's long-term support programs. A service coordinator will talk to you about the program and will meet with your family.
- Families who live in Adams, Columbia, Dane, Green, Jefferson, Kenosha, Lafayette, Marquette, Ozaukee, Racine, Rock, Walworth, Washington and Waukesha counties can go directly to **CompassWisconsin:Threshold** ([compasswisconsin.org](http://compasswisconsin.org)). Threshold helps with intake, application and eligibility determination for children needing long-term supports and services.

### **Are There Any Funding Rule Differences?**

DHS reported in November that there are **two exceptions** to what can be paid for under CCOP compared to the Family Support Program. These include:

- No use of funds for those over age 22. The Family Support Program currently has a few exceptions to allow funds to be used for those up to age 24;
- No use of funds for room and board. In most cases the Family Support Program does not currently allow this.

### **Who Should I Contact if I Have Questions?**

If your child is currently enrolled in the Family Support Program talk to your child's service coordinator for specific questions including what can be covered starting in 2016. For more general questions about CCOP contact the Alyssa Zirk, CCOP Project Coordinator, at the Department of Health Services, at **[Alyssa.Zirk@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Alyssa.Zirk@wisconsin.gov)**

To learn more about the program go to the DHS website for the **Bureau of Children's Services** ([dhs.wisconsin.gov/children/index.htm](http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/children/index.htm)) and click on the link to the **Family Support Program**. *(Please note this program name will change in 2016.)*

### **What if My Child is on a Waiting List, Will Anything Change?**

Families who have a child eligible for the Family Support Program will likely continue to wait for services through CCOP. The current state budget does provide some additional funding for children's long-term supports to help decrease the waiting times over the next few years.

### **Can Families Have a Voice in How the New Program is Implemented and Run?**

**YES!** Each county will have a CCOP advisory committee and the parents of children with disabilities must be included. Counties may choose to create a new committee or they may have a current advisory committee become this new group. The advisory committee will help in making a program plan and monitor the program at the county level. If you are interested in being part of a CCOP Advisory Committee, contact your county's Human Services Department or talk to your child's service coordinator.

**If you have questions or need help finding services contact the following organizations:**

- **Regional Centers for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs - [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/cyshcn/index.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/cyshcn/index.htm)**
- **Wisconsin First Step a 24-hour hotline at 1-800-642-7837**