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MCO Communication Bulletin #J132

Date: April 1, 2015

To: LME-MCOs

From: Mabel McGlothlen, LME System Performance Team Leader, DMH//DD/SAS, and Kathy Nichols, Lead Waiver Program Manager, Behavioral Health Section, DMA

Subject: Waiver from Provider Choice and Access Requirements

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide guidelines for LME-MCOs:

- to request an initial waiver from contractual requirements to ensure that individuals have access to services and a choice of providers, and
- to provide information about existing waivers from contractual requirements for choice and access.

When an LME-MCO determines the need to request a waiver from choice and access requirements, or when there is the need for on-going (or annual) monitoring of existing waivers, the LME-MCO must complete and submit the appropriate form for each service included in waiver requests or waivers.

Included with this bulletin are two forms, one for initial waiver requests and one for review of existing waivers. Please submit DMA initial waiver requests or updates to existing waivers to Kathy Nichols at Katherine.a.nichols@dhhs.nc.gov and DMH/DD/SAS initial waiver requests or updates to Dr. Courtney Cantrell courtney.m.cantrell@dhhs.nc.gov and copied to the assigned DMH LME-MCO liaison.

If the LME-MCO reports in its 2015 Provider Capacity, Community Needs Assessment and Gaps Analyses plans to submit an initial waiver request, include in the gaps analysis report a brief memo with the following information:

- Current number of providers of the service under contract to the LME-MCO.
- Current numbers of individuals receiving or in need of the service.

- Justification for waiving the access and choice requirements.
- If the LME-MCO currently does not contract with any provider of the service, how will the LME-MCO serve an individual who needs it?
- If the LME-MCO currently contracts with only one provider of the service, how will the LME-MCO address requests from individuals who want a choice of providers?

Memos about planned initial waiver requests in the 4/1/2015 gaps analysis report are not replacements for formal initial waiver requests.

If you have questions, please contact the DMA at Katherine.a.Nichols@dhhs.nc.gov or the DMH/DD/SAS Quality Management Team at ContactDMHQuality@dhhs.nc.gov or 919-733-0696.

Previous bulletins can be accessed at: <http://itcommunicationbulletins.ncdhhs.gov/>

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