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HUMAN SERVICES**

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**LME/MCO Joint Communication Bulletin #J452**

**DATE:** April 19, 2023

**TO:** Local Management Entities/Managed Care Organizations (LME/MCOs)

**FROM:** Kelly Crosbie, Director, DMH/DD/SAS  
Kathie Trotter, Director, DVRS  
Sandra Terrell, Chief Clinical Officer, NC Medicaid

**SUBJECT:** Updates on Competitive Integrated Employment and Continuation of New Admissions to Adult Day Vocational Programs

This bulletin updates DHHS collaborative work with the community on Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) efforts to enhance services and supports available for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to help them achieve their goals of employment and community inclusion. This bulletin updates information shared with LME/MCOs in May 2022 regarding admissions to Adult Day Vocation Programs (ADVP).

On Jan. 20, 2022, a memorandum of understanding between Disability Rights North Carolina, the Center for Public Representation, and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) was announced. Subsequently, on Dec. 8, 2022, an implementation memorandum of agreement (Implementation Agreement) was signed between Disability Rights North Carolina, the Center for Public Representation and NCDHHS. A copy of this agreement can be found here: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/implementation-memorandum-agreement-between-disability-rights-nc-center-public-representation-and/open>.

As part of the original CIE MOU, NCDHHS announced its plan to close admissions to Adult Day Vocational Programs (ADVPs) beginning July 1, 2022. However, after careful consideration of feedback from persons with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD), family members and providers, NCDHHS determined that it will not move forward with the cessation of new admissions to ADVPs.

The Implementation Agreement signed in December 2022 reflects the Department's updated plan to expand CIE opportunities based on valuable feedback from community stakeholders including providers, consumers, families, and others. DHHS is pursuing the objectives of the Implementation Agreement within a modified

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timeframe to onboard technical expertise to accomplish CIE goals.

NCDHHS is committed to ensuring that all individuals regardless of disability status have the opportunity to work in the community if they elect to do so. NCDHHS values full integration and supports the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to choose this pathway. CIE allows individuals to work in the community alongside other employees without disabilities. It also allows individuals to earn at least minimum wage and receive the same workplace benefits and opportunities as other employees doing the same job.

Over the past decade, North Carolina has worked to transform services and systems to support individuals with disabilities as fully included members of their communities. CIE is critical to achieving equal opportunity, full participation, and economic self-sufficiency for people with disabilities.

DHHS will update our *Strategic Plan to Promote and Expand CIE for Individuals with I/DD (CIE I/DD Plan)* in partnership with consumers, families, providers, and stakeholders. DHHS will continue to enhance employment services and supports for individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities, including Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), by aligning them with evidence-based and promising practices to promote informed choice and more opportunities for CIE.

Please continue to look for updates on CIE work on the [DHHS Competitive Integrated Employment Webpage](#). NCDHHS remains committed to advancing competitive integrated employment efforts for all. We will be working closely with all stakeholders as we further refine our efforts to reach this goal.

If you have any questions, please contact Ginger Yarbrough at 984-236-5046 or [ginger.yarbrough@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:ginger.yarbrough@dhhs.nc.gov).

Previous bulletins can be accessed at: [ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mhddsas/joint-communication-bulletins](https://ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mhddsas/joint-communication-bulletins)

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