



## Youth Empowerment Services A Medicaid Waiver Program for Children with Severe Emotional Disturbance

Texas Children's Mental Health Forum

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## Waiver Background

- Legislative direction to the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) – prevent custody relinquishment of children with Severe Emotional Disturbance (SED)
- HHSC authorized DSHS to develop and operate a 1915(c) waiver for children with SED



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## Medicaid Waiver Basics



- Provide home and community-based services to children who otherwise need institutional care (e.g., psychiatric inpatient care) or whose parents would turn to state custody for care
- **Must be cost neutral** to Medicaid (average Medicaid service cost with waiver less than or equal to average Medicaid service cost w/o waiver)
- Generally used to serve ICF MR or Nursing Facility eligible populations
- 7 states have 1915(c) waivers that serve children with SED

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## Why a Waiver?

- Allows Texas to pilot a continuum of services to youth with SED
- Enables Texas to include children who are not otherwise Medicaid-eligible when living in the community (parental income is not included in financial eligibility calculation).
- Provides Texas with flexibility to create services designed to:
  - Prevent or reduce inpatient admissions and out of home placements
  - Ensure access to other flexible non-traditional support services, including the parent partners / family support providers
  - Develop individualized plans of care through a family-centered planning process
  - Improve outcomes for youth / families



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## YES Waiver Implementation

- Waiver request submitted June, 2008
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approved application February, 2009
- Target implementation date is April 1, 2010. Currently working toward contracting with LMHAs to provide services.
- Initial Waiver sites in Bexar and Travis counties: 150 slots in each County = maximum of 300 youth at any given time
- Expand to Harris and Tarrant counties within 3 years, if waiver is determined to be cost neutral in its first two years of operation



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## Who is a Waiver Provider?

- Responds to the Notice of Open Enrollment
- Entity that agrees to enter into a Waiver Provider Agreement to provide or arrange for all YES Waiver Services
  - May require forming partnerships and subcontract relationships in order to provide all Services.
- Meets the credentialing standards defined by DSHS
- Waiver Provider could be:
  - Local Mental Health Authority
  - existing waiver provider agencies (DADS)
  - Individuals/agencies specialized in providing services to children and adolescents

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## Waiver Services

- Respite
- Community Living Supports
- Family Supports
- Transitional Services
- Adaptive Aids & Supports
- Minor Home Modifications
- Non-Medical Transportation
- Paraprofessional Services
- Professional services
- Supportive Family Based Alternatives



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## Who is eligible for Waiver services?

To participate in the YES Waiver, the child or adolescent must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Age 3-18;
- Reside in Bexar or Travis County, and in a non-institutional setting with the individual's legally authorized representative (LAR); or in the individual's own home or apartment, if legally emancipated
- Be eligible for Medicaid, under a Medicaid Eligibility Group included in the approved waiver. Parental income is not included in financial eligibility determination.
- Meet DSHS clinical guidelines and be reasonably expected to qualify for inpatient care under the Texas Medicaid inpatient psychiatric admission guidelines, as defined in the waiver, in the absence of waiver services
- Choose, or have the LAR choose, the waiver program services as an alternative to care in an inpatient psychiatric facility, in accordance with the provisions of the waiver

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## Case Management

- Provided by the Local Mental Health Authority - Community Mental Health Center
- Billed as Targeted Case Management to Texas Medicaid & Healthcare Partnership (TMHP)
- Case Manager develops Individual Plan of Care (IPC) with the Treatment Team for Waiver and non-Waiver services for LMHA review/submission to DSHS
- Case Manager monitors and updates the IPC at least every 90 days

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## Transition Planning

### Transitioning adolescents who reach the Waiver's maximum age limit.

- The LMHA, under it's agreement with HHSC and DSHS will be required to ensure that adolescents who turn 19 while in services are transitioned to adult services at least 6 months before their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. A transition plan must be developed in consultation with the adolescent, the LAR and the future providers with adequate time to allow both current and future providers to transition the adolescent into adult services without a disruption in services.

### The transition plan must include:

1. A summary of the mental health community services Waiver services
2. The adolescents' current status (e.g. diagnosis, medications, level of functioning) and unmet needs,
3. Adolescents' strengths, preferences for mental health community services, and responsiveness to past interventions, and
4. A plan of care that indicates the mental health and other community services the adolescent will receive as an adult and ensures the youth's continuity of services without disruption.

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## Wraparound

- Currently utilized within RDM intensive service packages
- The Children's Mental Health Partnership will provide training on Systems of Care and the Wraparound process to all providers of YES Waiver services.
- The Targeted Case Manager at the LMHA will be the service care coordinator for Waiver participants.

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## YES Waiver Policies and Procedures Manual

- Version 4 – In progress
- Currently available online
  - <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/mhsa/yes/>
- Roles and Responsibilities of
  - DSHS
  - LMHA administrative activities
  - Waiver Provider (includes the LMHAs)
- Policies and Procedures
- Appendices and Forms/Templates



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## DSHS and HHSC Will...

- Provide General Oversight
  - Rules, Policies, Procedures
  - Manage Enrollment and Expenditures
  - Measure Cost Neutrality
- Collaborate on Quality Management Activities
- Review Data for Trends
- Develop Reports for Stakeholders
- Process Payments to Waiver Providers



## DSHS and HHSC Will...

- Continue to recruit Waiver Provider Agencies via Open Enrollment Process
- Contract with Qualified Agencies - Waiver Provider Agreement
- Contract with LMHAs for administrative functions
- Contract with LMHAs for Waiver Provider role
- Approve Levels of Care and IPC
- Provide ongoing Training and Technical Assistance
- Establish and Maintain a Waiver Provider Directory & Provider Interest List

## LMHA Administrative Functions

- Enter into an MOU with DSHS
- Maintain a local Waiver participant Interest List
- Determine Clinical Eligibility and Recommend a Level of Care
- Identify Needed Waiver and Non-Waiver Services /Supports
- Coordinate with DSHS to obtain Medicaid eligibility for individuals not already eligible
- Facilitate Transition Planning
- Collaborate on Utilization Management, Quality Assurance & Improvement Activities
- Provide Targeted Case Management
- Coordinate with the Waiver Provider on the development of the IPC
- Recommend an Individual Plan of Care for each Waiver participant

## Waiver Provider Functions

- Operate under a Waiver Provider Agreement with DSHS
- Provide directly or arrange for (via subcontracts) all Waiver services
- Submit billing and encounter data to DSHS
- Participate in IPC development and maintenance
- Participate in Utilization Management in accordance with approved IPC
- Participate in Quality Management and improvement initiatives
- Identify capacity to serve Waiver Participants to DSHS

## Contact Information

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