



## LCBDD News & Updates!

Good afternoon and Happy New Year! Sending along some info. on the DSP rate increase and changes to Non-Medical Transportation, plus a few other items.

Please let me know what questions you have.

Thanks,

David

### **Focus Group on Future of Day Services & Employment**

This year, DODD will begin the Blueprint for Adult Day and Employment Services work group to help strengthen competitive, integrated employment for Ohioans with disabilities. Want to help the work group by offering your experience?

- People who use adult day and employment services or providers can join the "Speak Up" focus group (hosted by [Ohio Self Determination Association](#)) on January 8 from 10 AM to 12:30 PM at the Delaware County Board of Developmental Disabilities (7991 Columbus Pike, Lewis Center, OH 43035). No registration is necessary.

### **HPC rate increase effective as of 1/1/20!**

Attached and below is info. about the DSP rate increase that went into effect Jan. 1, 2020.

**UPDATED: DSP Rate Increase Begins January 1** December 16, 2019 | [DODD](#)

For service dates beginning January 1, 2020, the Medicaid maximum payment rates are increasing for Homemaker/Personal Care (HPC), Participant-Directed Homemaker/Personal Care (PD-HPC), and On-Site/On-Call (OSOC).

Only providers who bill DODD claims with a rate that is at least the new maximum payment rate will receive higher payments. Providers who bill DODD claims with a lower rate than the maximum will be paid at that lower rate.

A summary of the new rates can be found on the [billing page](#).

### **Webinar: NMT & Transportation Rule Changes**

Changes to Transportation and Non-Medical Transportation services will become effective February 1, 2020. DODD's Division of Medicaid Development and Administration will host a webinar 2:30 PM January 9 to review the changes.

[Register for Webinar](#)

### **Employment First Rule annual reports requirement**

During a recent audit we were made aware that DODD's interpretation of the rule below is that



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Employment Providers will generate an annual written progress report. This is in addition to other communication with the team throughout the year. Below is the actual Employment First Rule citation:

#### 5123:2-2-05 (F) Requirements for providers

(1) Providers of employment services shall submit to each individual's team at least once every twelve months, or more frequently as decided by the team, a written progress report that demonstrates that employment services provided are consistent with the individual's desired community employment outcome and that the individual receiving employment services has obtained community employment or is advancing on the path to community employment. The written progress report shall identify the anticipated time-frame and tangible progress made toward achievement of each desired outcome of the employment services provided as set forth in the individual plan or individual service plan. If no progress is reported, the individual plan or individual service plan shall be amended to identify the barriers toward achieving desired outcomes and the action steps to overcome the identified barriers.



## Residential Homemaker Personal Care Rate Increase

### BACKGROUND

**A Historic Investment:** In 2019 the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), State Legislature, and County Boards of Developmental Disabilities made a historic investment to increase rates for **“Residential”** Homemaker Personal Care (HPC) services. DODD will raise Medicaid payment rates to providers for HPC on January 1, 2020 and again on January 1, 2021. The intent of these rate increases is to provide additional compensation to direct support professional staff delivering HPC services.

**The Rate Applies to Residential HPC Services:** The rate change only applies to those who provide residential HPC services. Advocacy efforts to ensure rate increases for other DD services are currently being organized.

### IMPLEMENTATION

**Varied Implementation of the Rate Increase:** Providers will have the opportunity to implement the rate change in ways that best benefits their DSPs. The additional money may be applied to wages, bonuses, benefits and overtime.

**Wage Verification:** A team of stakeholders representing a variety of organizations are working together to ensure the HPC rate is handled appropriately and improves total compensation\* for Direct Support Professionals (DSP). The organizations include Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB), Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA), Ohio Health Care Association (OHCA), Ohio Waiver Network (OWN), The Arc of Ohio and the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD).

**A New Wage Verification Tool:** A tool is being developed that will help providers identify the appropriate wage, bonus, and benefits data to meet the requirements of what needs to be submitted to DODD. The tool is in the process of being finalized and we anticipate it will be available to providers early in 2020.

**Ensuring Transparency:** The rate increase requires all HPC providers to submit data to DODD in an effort to show the rate was applied to benefit the DSP. The new data collection process will replace the NCI Staff Stability survey in 2020.

### OUTCOMES

**Statewide Average:** Every HPC Provider in Ohio will be required to submit data on their wages, overtime, and employee-related expenses to DODD. The data will be used to show how each provider improved compensation for DSPs. The data also will be used to calculate statewide averages. It is anticipated the statewide average will improve over time.