

OLTL's Updated Attendant Care Waiver Transition Plan
March, 2016

Overview

OLTL's transition plan was developed with stakeholder input including public comment through multiple modes. It is OLTL's intent to comply with the new rule and implement a transition plan that assists members and their families to lead healthy, independent, and productive lives; to have the ability to live, work, and fully participate in their communities to the fullest extent possible; to fully exercise their rights as residents; and to promote the integrity and well-being of their families. The Plan outlines four phases of activity:

- 1.) Identification of tasks that need to be accomplished
- 2.) Assessment of the settings in which HCBS waiver services are provided. Settings are expected to fall within four categories:
 - a. Those presumed to be fully compliant with HCBS characteristics
 - b. Those that may be compliant, or could be compliant with changes
 - c. Those presume non-HCBS but evidence may be presented to CMS for heightened scrutiny
 - d. Those that do not comply with HCBS characteristics
- 3.) Development of remediation strategies for those settings that are not in compliance, and
- 4.) Outline a public input process that will be used throughout the phases.

OLTL will change its own processes and protocols based on the rule's requirements, will at regular intervals consistently monitor providers through a variety of mechanisms and will include stakeholder input throughout these ongoing activities. Any changes to the Transition Plan will be put out for public input and a variety of input venues will be used to ensure that participants, providers, advocates and the general public have an opportunity to express their views.

The state assures that the settings transition plan included waiver specific transition plan will be subject to any provisions or requirements included in the state's approved Statewide Transition Plan. The state will implement any required changes upon approval of the Statewide Transition Plan and will make conforming changes to its waiver when it submits the next amendment or renewal.

Introduction to the Attendant Care Waiver

The Attendant Care Waiver serves individuals ages 18 to 59 that are nursing facility clinically eligible and financially eligible for MA waiver services.

The following services are available through the Attendant Care Waiver:

- Community Transition Services
- Participant-Directed Community Supports
- Participant-Directed Goods and Services
- Personal Assistance Services
- Personal Emergency Response System (PERS)
- Service Coordination

Timeline:

The HCBS transition plan for the Attendant Care Waiver was first submitted to CMS on June 30, 2014. Prior to submission, a series of public comment opportunities were provided to stakeholders and interested parties:

- May 17, 2014 a 30-day public comment period was initiated through a Public Notice published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin
- May 23, 2014 the transition plan was distributed to various stakeholders via the OLTL ListServ and posted on the OLTL website <http://www.dhs.pa.gov/learnaboutdhs/dhsorganization/officeoflongtermliving/oltlwaiverinfo/index.htm>
- June 10, 2014 the transition plan was discussed at the Long – Term Care Subcommittee of the Medical Assistance Advisory Committee (MAAC)
- June 13, 2014 the transition plan was discussed at the OLTL HCBS Provider meeting
- June 26, 2014 the transition plan was discussed at the MAAC meeting

Based upon CMS and stakeholder feedback, OLTL made multiple revisions to the initial transition plan and began a second 30-day public comment period on November 26, 2014.

The required public notice was posted and the second comment period was achieved according to the following schedule:

- October 14, 2014 discussed the transition plan at the Long – Term Care Subcommittee of the MAAC
- November 26, 2014 transition plan was distributed via the OLTL ListServ and posted on the OLTL website <http://www.dhs.pa.gov/learnaboutdhs/dhsorganization/officeoflongtermliving/oltlwaiverinfo/index.htm>
- November 29, 2014 Public Notice was published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin
- December 8 and December 10, 2014 OLTL hosted webinars for all interested stakeholders
- December 10, 2014 notification was sent out to various stakeholders, including waiver participants, through the Disability Rights Network

*The Attendant Care waiver transition plan was submitted to CMS on December 31, 2014 and approved by CMS on March 18, 2015. What follows is an updated transition plan that includes the results of our assessment phase, additional stakeholder activity, and more detailed remediation steps.

The Attendant Care waiver transition plan received additional stakeholder input when it was distributed with the required public notice period for the Statewide Transition Plan in accordance with the following schedule:

- January 8, 2016 the Statewide Transition Plan containing the Attendant Care waiver transition plan was distribute via the OLTL ListServ and posted on the OLTL website
- January 9, 2016 Public Notice was published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin
- February 9, 2016 discussed the transition plan at the Long-Term Care Subcommittee of the MAAC
- January 22 and February 1, 2016 The Department of Human Services (DHS) hosted webinars for all interested stakeholders

Participant involvement:

The Long-Term Care Subcommittee of the MAAC includes participant representation as well as advocacy representation. All members of this committee are responsible for reaching out to their constituencies to make them aware of the information that is presented at the meetings as well as soliciting their input when asked to review and provide feedback on documents. This committee was used as a venue to seek participant and advocate input.

Additionally, Service Coordinators and direct service providers were asked to share information with Attendant Care Waiver participants.

OLTL held a Stakeholder Meeting on May 7, 2015 to discuss CMS' Final Rule related to Home and Community Based settings. There were 35 attendees representing various associations, participants, advocates, providers, and Department of Human Services' staff. Deputy Secretary Burnett provided information about the HCBS final rule. She also shared some examples of the approach of other

states to the final rule. OLTL staff presented an overview of the HCBS final rule and preliminary data results of a provider self-survey that was issued in April, 2015. Stakeholder input was provided on what compliance would look like, how OLTL could become compliant, barriers to compliance and strategies for continued engagement and communication with stakeholders. Stakeholders overwhelmingly expressed that OLTL should be flexible in interpreting the rule (consumer advocates, however, disagreed). Overall, stakeholders felt that a “one size fits all” will not work, especially when evaluating providers. In addition, stakeholders believed that Person-Centered Planning should hold the most weight and be considered as the lynchpin moving forward with an approach to implement the rule. A summary report of the meeting can be found on our website at

<http://www.dhs.pa.gov/learnaboutdhs/dhsorganization/officeoflongtermliving/oltlwaiverinfo/index.htm>

Information and updates were provided to the LTC Sub-MAAC on August 11, 2015 and October 13, 2015. Additionally OLTL Service Coordinators and direct service providers were asked to share information with Waiver participants.

Summary of Public Input Opportunities:

OLTL’s transition plan was developed with stakeholder input including public comment through multiple modes. It is OLTL's intent to comply with the new rule and implement a transition plan that assists members and their families to lead healthy, independent, and productive lives; to have the ability to live, work, and fully participate in their communities to the fullest extent possible; to fully exercise their rights as residents; and to promote the integrity and well-being of their families.

ASSESSMENT - OLTL's assessment activities included a systematic review of policy documents, provider enrollment documents and service definitions, a review of licensing requirements, and development and implementation of a provider self-survey. Data from these activities will be assessed and provider settings will be placed into four categories: (1) Setting is fully compliant; (2) Settings that are not compliant but will be able to come into compliance through the transition planning process (3) Setting is presumed non-compliant but evidence may be presented for heightened scrutiny review; and (4) Setting does not comply. These categories will inform the order in which OLTL will perform on-site visits, starting with settings that do not comply and ending with a sample of settings that the surveys indicate are fully compliant. These activities will give OLTL a provider perspective on settings, which will be followed by official OLTL on-site monitoring's to validate survey responses. OLTL also intended to implement a participant review tool, but due to budgetary constraints was unable to do so during the assessment phase. OLTL plans to implement the participant review tool after the approval of the state budget. These procedures and steps are outlined in the remediation section.

Assessment Results

Attendant Care waiver services are provided in the private homes of individuals and it is, therefore, presumed that are compliant with the CMS Rule.

Systemic Review of Regulations, policies, and Service Definitions: OLTL has completed a review of state laws and regulations regarding the in-home setting, including a review of policies and service definitions. The results of OLTL's analysis can be found on the OLTL website here <http://www.dhs.pa.gov/learnaboutdhs/dhsorganization/officeoflongtermliving/oltlwaiverinfo/index.htm>.

Settings Review: OLTL issued a web-based provider self-survey to all HCBS providers for OLTL waivers, and made available to all providers a paper version of the survey to complete if the provider was unable to access the web-based survey. The Electronic Provider Self-Survey tool can be found here <http://questionpro.com/t/ALHsBZSEE4>. Providers were asked to complete a survey for each site location at which they provider waiver services. OLTL received 775 completed surveys by 431 distinct providers. At the time the survey was distributed, 1100 providers were enrolled to provide services for OLTL. The 431 respondents represent a 39% response rate of all enrolled OLTL HCBS providers. OLTL conducted follow-up activities with those providers that were identified as not completing and submitting the provider self-survey. OLTL compiled and analyzed data from the Provider Self-Surveys as they potentially conform to HCBS characteristics and their ability to comply in the future. The summary results of the survey, along with a copy of the survey can be found here <http://www.dhs.pa.gov/learnaboutdhs/dhsorganization/officeoflongtermliving/oltlwaiverinfo/index.htm>.

OLTL has assessed the services and settings in this waiver and assures that services are rendered in settings that meet home and community based characteristics. Attendant Care waiver participants reside in private homes or apartments located in the community and access services in their homes and utilize typical public community settings and resources. This waiver does not provide services in residential or non-residential settings that include congregate living facilities, institutional settings or on the grounds of institutions. The enrollment entity and Service Coordinators provide information about providers available to the individual through the waiver and the individual selects the provider and setting of their choice. Service Coordinators are responsible for entering the choice of providers and services into the person-centered service plan, assist individuals in locating an appropriate provider of their choice, and facilitate the options the individual has chosen. Attendant Care waiver participants are encouraged and supported to fully engage in community life and employment opportunities. Attendant Care waiver participants have the opportunity to direct their own services and have full autonomy in individualizing these services, when they are provided and who provides them. Participants have the ability to set their own schedules, choose their own activities and determine with whom they will interact. It is, therefore, found by OLTL that services for this waiver are not being provided in unallowable settings.

To ensure continuation of such, OLTL will utilize the Participant Review Tool and QMET monitoring Tool for ongoing compliance.

Based on this review, OLTL identified the settings that:

- (1) Yes, Setting is fully compliant;
- (2) Settings that are not compliant but will be able to come into compliance through the transition planning process
- (3) Not Yet. Setting is presumed non-compliant but evidence may be presented for heightened scrutiny review; and
- (4) No. Setting does not comply.

<i>Category 1</i> <i>Services in settings that fully comply with the regulatory requirements because they are individually provided in the participant’s private home or home of a family member and allow the client full access to community living. Recipients get to choose what service and supports they want to receive and who provides them. Participants are free to choose to seek employment and work in competitive settings, engage in community life and control their personal resources as they see fit.</i>	
Service	Service Description
Non-Medical Transportation Services	Transportation services are services offered in order to enable individuals served on the waiver to gain access to waiver and other community activities and resources, specified by the plan of care/service plan.
Community Transition Services	Community Transition Services are one-time expenses for individuals that make the transition from an institution to their own home, apartment or family/friend living arrangement. The service must be specified in the service plan as necessary to enable the participant to integrate more fully into the community and to ensure health, welfare and safety of the participant.
Participant-Directed Goods and Services	This service is only available through the Services My Way (budget authority) participant-directed model. Participant-Directed Goods and Services are services, equipment or supplies not otherwise provided through this waiver or through the Medicaid State Plan. These items must address an identified need in the participant’s traditional service plan (including improving and maintaining the individual’s opportunities for full participation in the community)

Participant-Directed Community Supports	Participant-Directed Community Supports will be offered to participants choosing budget authority under the Services My Way model. Participant-Directed Community Supports are specified by the service plan, as necessary, to promote independence and to ensure the health, welfare and safety of the participant. The participant is the common law employer of the individual worker(s) providing services; workers are recruited, selected, hired and managed by the participant.
Non-Medical Transportation Services	Transportation services are services offered in order to enable individuals served on the waiver to gain access to waiver and other community activities and resources, specified by the plan of care/service plan.
Personal Assistance Services	Personal Assistance Services are aimed at assisting the individual to complete tasks of daily living that would be performed independently if the individual had no disability. These services include: Care to assist with activities of daily living activities (e.g., eating, bathing, dressing, and personal hygiene), cueing to prompt the participant to perform a task and providing supervision to assist a participant who cannot be safely left alone. Health maintenance activities provided for the participant, such as bowel and bladder routines, ostomy care, catheter, wound care and range of motion as indicated in the individual's service plan and permitted under applicable State requirements.
Personal Emergency Response System (PERS)	PERS is an electronic device that enables an individual at high risk of institutionalization to secure help in an emergency. The individual may also wear a portable "help" button to allow for mobility. The system is connected to the person's phone and programmed to signal a response center once the "help" button is activated. The response center is staffed by trained professionals. PERS services are limited to those individuals who live alone or who are alone for significant parts of the day and have no regular caregiver for extended periods of time and would otherwise need extensive routine supervision.
Service Coordination	Service Coordination services are services that will assist individuals who receive waiver services in gaining access to needed waiver services and other State Medicaid Plan services, as well as medical, social, educational and other services regardless of the funding source. Service Coordination is working with and at the direction of the participant whenever possible to identify, coordinate, and facilitate waiver services.

REMEDIATION STRATEGIES

1. Publication of Policy, Regulations, and Waiver Amendments/Renewals

The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services' Office of Long-Term Living (OLTL) is developing a new managed long-term service and supports program for older Pennsylvanians and adults with physical disabilities called Community HealthChoices (CHC). The vision for CHC is an integrated system of physical health and long-term Medicare and Medicaid services that supports older adults and adults with physical disabilities to live safe and healthy lives with as much independence as possible, in the most integrated settings possible. The program will roll out in three phases over three years, beginning in January 2017. The first phase in period will begin on January 1, 2017 in the Southwest region of the state. The second phase in period will begin on January 1, 2018 in the Southeast region of the state, and the final phase in period will occur on January 1, 2019 for the remaining areas of the state.

OLTL will be working with stakeholders on the development of standards, policies, and procedures in order to more objectively measure characteristics of the HCBS Final Rule. Although all services and definitions for the Attendant Care waiver are compliant at this time, OLTL will be issuing general policy on non-residential standards in order to effectively measure ongoing compliance in the future.

Publication of policy on Non-residential settings: OLTL will work with stakeholders to develop and issue standards for non-residential settings in the HCBS waivers in the form of a policy.

Public Comment Target Date: March, 2016

Implementation Target Date: July, 2016

Publication of policy on Individual Service Plan Documentation requirements: OLTL will issue policy on the documentation requirements for person-centered planning.

Public Comment Target Date: August, 2015

Implementation Target Date: December, 2015

2. Provider Enrollment

OLTL's Bureau of Provider Management's Enrollment division accepts applications from providers electing to enroll to provide HCBS services. Prior to any enrollment the provider is required to complete the OLTL standard application form and materials. Effective

July 1, 2015, the application form includes questions and information related to the HCBS final rule. Applicants that are identified as not in compliance with the final rule will be required to complete the provider self-survey and may be subject to an on-site visit by OLTL and submission to CMS for heightened scrutiny prior to enrollment, or may have additional steps to take to be compliant with the rule before their enrollment is considered complete. No applicants as of December 2015 have been identified for needing heightened scrutiny.

In Pennsylvania's move to managed long term services and supports, services must be provided in accordance with 42 CFR §441.301(c) (4) and (5), which outlines allowable setting for home and community-based waiver services. Settings cannot be located on the grounds of a NF, Intermediate Care Facility, Institute for Mental Disease or Hospital, unless it meets the standards for the heightened scrutiny process established through the HCBS Final Rule and is included in the PCSP. The CHC-MCO must submit documentation on a quarterly basis containing a list of settings that are non-compliant.

3. Training

OLTL staff, providers, participants, family members, and Service Coordinators will receive education and training on the updated policies and procedures that are developed as a result of OLTL's assessment and remediation efforts. OLTL will periodically offer training to HCBS providers through face-to-face methods or by webinar, which will cover clarifications relating to the final rule as well as any new policy or procedures providers will be expected to comply with in the future. HCBS providers who need to take additional steps to come into compliance with the final rule will receive technical assistance from OLTL in order to become compliant.

Target Dates for Training: August and September 2016

4. Monitoring and Compliance

OLTL's overall strategy will rely heavily on its existing HCBS quality assurance processes to ensure ongoing provider compliance with the HCBS rule. This will include provider identification of remediation strategies for each identified issue, and ongoing review of status and compliance. OLTL will also provide guidance and technical assistance to providers to assist providers with ongoing compliance. Providers that do not remain compliant with the HCBS final rule may be subject to sanctions ranging from probation to disenrollment.

The Quality Management Efficiency Teams (QMETS) are OLTL's regional provider monitoring agents. The QMETS monitor providers of direct services as well as agencies having delegated functions. Each regional QMET is comprised of a Program Specialist (regional team lead), Registered Nurses, Social Workers, and Fiscal Representatives. Five teams are dispersed throughout the state of Pennsylvania, and report directly to the OLTL QMET State Coordinator.

The QMET utilizes a standardized monitoring tool for each monitoring, and monitors providers against standards derived from Title 55, Chapter 52 of the Pennsylvania Code, provider requirements established in the approved waivers and any OLTL policies. OLTL will revise the QMET on-site monitoring tool to capture the new standards that will be published in July 2016. These revisions will include elements of a detailed look at every site, and review of the administered Participant Review Tool. The QMET will begin monitoring to the new standards in the beginning of 2017, which will allow providers sufficient time to complete the activities necessary to come into compliance with the new standards, policies and service definitions. Compliance with final rule requirements will be assessed and validated through a regular QMET monitoring site visit. The QMET will be conducting an onsite assessment at all sites which have been identified to be in a category that requires follow-up for compliance review. These assessments will include a walk-through of the site where HCBS services occur, as well as participant file reviews and a review of the site's policies and procedures. QMET will be responsible for monitoring providers in the regions of the State that have not yet implemented CHC. Compliance will be assessed and validated through a regular QMET monitoring site visit.

With each phase-in period of CHC, the MCOs will be responsible for ensuring providers in their networks are compliant with OLTL policies related to the HCBS Final Rule. The CHC-MCO must provide services in the least restrictive, most integrated setting. As agreed to in the CHC Agreement, the CHC-MCO must provide services in the least restrictive, most integrated setting and LTSS must be provided in accordance with 42 CFR §441.301(c) (4) and (5), which outlines allowable setting for home and community-based waiver services. This includes that CHC-MCO shall only provide LTSS in settings that comply with federal regulations; and that settings cannot be located on the grounds of a NF, Intermediate Care Facility, Institute for Mental Disease or Hospital, unless they meet the standards for the heightened scrutiny process established through the HCBS Final Rule and is included in the PCSP. The CHC-MCO must submit documentation on a quarterly basis containing a list of settings that are non-compliant.

Until CHC implementation in each region is complete, OLTL will issue a Statement of Findings (SoF) to providers listing infractions (areas of non-compliance) and immediate need for the provider to take corrective action. Based on the areas of non-compliance, OLTL will issue a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for provider remediation. Provider remediation activities are documented in CAPs

which will be requested from providers by the QMETs to correct non-compliance issues. The CAP will provide detailed information about the steps to be taken to remediate issues and the expected timelines for compliance. The provider needs to demonstrate through the CAP that it can meet the regulations and develop a process on how to continue compliance with the regulations. As part of the remediating process, areas of non-compliance with the regulations are identified from the on-site review and a SoF is generated. The provider responds to the written SoF by completing a CAP. The CAP includes some of the following: action steps to address a specific finding; explanation on how the steps will remediate the finding; date when a finding will be remediated and the agency responsible person for correcting the identified problem. The provider must implement the approved CAP. The timeframe for conducting the CAP follow-up is dependent upon the dates for completion identified by the provider. QMET determines the CAP follow-up monitoring schedule and the method (on-site vs in office) based on the action steps that were to be completed or the area which was deemed out of compliance. CAPs are to be followed-up on between 30 and 90 days of the last date listed under timeline for completion. The provider is notified of the type of follow-up to be performed 10 business days in advance of the follow-up monitoring. Regardless of the manner of follow-up, all documents reviewed should be of sufficient quantity and scope in order to determine if the action steps have been completed accurately, timely, and in accordance with the approved plan. If the follow-up is performed and all the action items are verified as complete the CAP is closed. If some items remain incomplete, QMET will provide technical assistance in order to assist the provider in remediating any outstanding items and work towards closing the CAP. No CAP is closed until all action steps have been completed. Providers that are unable or unwilling to comply with their CAP will be disenrolled from providing HCBS waiver services at that setting and are required to adhere to **§ 52.61. Provider cessation of services.**

(a) If a provider is no longer able or willing to provide services, the provider shall perform the following:

(1) Send written notification to each participant, the Department and other providers with which the provider works that the provider is ceasing services at least 30 days prior to the provider ceasing services.

(2) Notify licensing or certifying entities as required.

(3) Send the Department a copy of the notification sent to a participant and service providers as required under paragraph (1). If the provider uses a general notification for all participants or service providers, a single copy of the notification is acceptable.

(4) Cooperate with the Department, new providers of services and participants with transition planning to ensure the participant's continuity of care.

(b) If the provider fails to notify the Department as specified in subsection (a), the provider shall forfeit payment for each day that the notice is overdue until the notice is issued.

Providers determined to be ineligible after the CAP process will be provided appeal rights.

OLTL will keep a “tracker” of HCBS providers who have been deemed out of compliance with the final rule, including how many participants they serve where they are out of compliance. OLTL will be tracking these providers and participants through the Corrective Action Plan process, and or the disenrollment process to make sure no participants, and no sites are forgotten.

OLTL waiver providers are continuously monitored for compliance during a 2-year cycle per waiver requirements.

In addition, participants will be able to report any non-compliance issues through a Participant Review Tool. OLTL has developed a Participant Review Tool to be used by service coordinators during face-to-face visits that incorporates questions designed to receive participant feedback on the settings in which they receive services. Service Coordinators will conduct a face-to-face visit with the participant and complete the department issued Participant Review Tool. This will ensure that participants have a method to provide feedback and report any non-compliance issues to OLTL through their service coordinator. The participant review tool was tested in April and March of 2015. OLTL is required to upgrade their license for the IT software that the participant review tool is housed. Due to a budget impasse, OLTL has not been able to purchase the license; therefore the participant review tool is anticipated to be implemented in June 2016.

Participants also have the ability to directly report complaints through the OLTL complaint hotline. OLTL operates a Customer Service line, also known as the OLTL HelpLine. The OLTL HelpLine (1-800-757-5042) is located in the Bureau of Participant Operations, and is staffed by OLTL personnel during normal business hours. Participants, family members and other interested parties use the HelpLine to report complaints/grievances regarding the provision/timeliness of services and provider performance. Individuals calling the OLTL HelpLine with a complaint/grievance are logged into the Enterprise Information System (EIM), a web-based database, and the information is then referred to the appropriate Bureau for resolution and follow-up.

5. Public Notice for Heightened Scrutiny:

OLTL has not identified any settings that may be subject to heightened scrutiny.

CONTINUED OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

This plan is not a onetime and done activity. Due to the many changes that OLTL will be implementing over the next several years, it is anticipated that the transition plan will need to be updated to reflect those changes as they occur. OLTL will change its own processes and protocols based on the rule’s requirements, will at regular intervals monitor providers through a variety of mechanisms and will include stakeholder input throughout these ongoing activities. Any changes to the Transition Plan will be put out for public input and a variety of input venues will be used to ensure that participants, providers, advocates and the general public have an opportunity to express their views.

In addition, in order to provide OLTL with ongoing advice, a subcommittee of the Department of Human Services’ Medical Assistance Advisory Committee (MAAC) has been established. The purpose of the Managed Long-Term Services and Supports (MLTSS) Subcommittee will be to review materials and advise the MAAC and the Department on policy development, program administration and new and innovative approaches to long-term services as the Commonwealth rolls out the new CHC delivery model. It will provide OLTL with advice on the design, implementation and ongoing operations, oversight and quality management of the CHC program. Membership of the committee includes consumers of long-term living services, providers of services, family caregivers and advocates. The MLTSS Subcommittee meets monthly to discuss the proposed policies and changes. OLTL will be using this forum to communicate any updates or changes to the Statewide Transition Plan (STP) as well as the OLTL waiver specific transition plan updates. Lastly, OLTL conducts stakeholder webinars every third Thursday of the month. These webinars have been primarily focused on the implementation of CHC, however, moving forward; OLTL believes this is a great opportunity to provide education and information on the STP as well as the OLTL waiver specific transition plans to our stakeholders.