

## **DDS Announces Waiver Amendment Public Notice and Public Comment period for the Early Childhood Autism Waiver**

### **DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

#### **Notice of Intent to Amend the Early Childhood Autism Waiver Effective July 1, 2016 to Close Intake, Establish a Transition Plan for Individuals Enrolled in the Waiver, and Terminate the Waiver After All Individuals Have Transitioned Off the Waiver**

In accordance with section 17b-8(c) of the Connecticut General Statutes, notice is hereby given that the Department of Social Services (DSS) intends to amend the Early Childhood Autism Waiver (“ECAW” or the “waiver”) to close intake effective July 1, 2016, establish a transition plan for individuals enrolled in the waiver, and terminate the waiver after all individuals have transitioned off the waiver (collectively, the “amendment”). The Early Childhood Autism Waiver was designed to support children ages 3 and 4 with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Effective January 1, 2015, DSS added coverage to the Medicaid State Plan for ASD evaluation and treatment services pursuant to Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) services for Medicaid members (HUSKY A, C, or D) under age 21 for whom ASD services are medically necessary. For additional information regarding those services, see DSS Provider Bulletin (PB) 14-99 and other bulletins that may be posted in the future (posted at [www.ctdssmap.com](http://www.ctdssmap.com), select “Information”, then select “Publications,” then select “Bulletin Search”).

Because the services covered under the waiver are now covered under the Medicaid State Plan for children who are eligible for Medicaid under standard eligibility criteria, these children will be transitioned off the waiver to receive these services under the Medicaid State Plan. Children who are not eligible for Medicaid under standard eligibility criteria but who meet the waiver’s eligibility criteria and are enrolled in the waiver as of the date of CMS’ approval of this amendment will be transitioned off the waiver when they age out of the waiver (at age five). Each child enrolled in the waiver as of the date of CMS’s approval of this amendment will have an individual transition plan to ensure the child is connected to available covered services. The waiver will be terminated when the last child has transitioned off the waiver in accordance with that child’s transition plan.

Because the services covered under the Medicaid State Plan pursuant to EPSDT under Connecticut’s Medicaid program are the same services that are covered under the waiver, Medicaid eligible children will continue to be eligible to receive those services after the waiver is amended and terminated.

A copy of the complete text of the waiver amendment is available upon request from:

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Members of the public may send DDS written comments about this amendment. All written comments must be submitted to the above contact information or to [DDS.HCBSTransition@ct.gov](mailto:DDS.HCBSTransition@ct.gov) not later than 30 days after the publication of this notice in the Connecticut Law Journal. If you send comments, please reference “Early Childhood Autism Waiver Amendment” and include your full name and contact information.