

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES


S. HUGHES MELTON, MD, MBA
FAAFP, FABAM
COMMISSIONER

Post Office Box 1797
Richmond, VA 23218-1797

Telephone (804) 786-3921
Fax (804) 371-6638
www.dbhds.virginia.gov

April 25, 2019

To: Community Services Board Executive Directors

From: S. Hughes Melton, MD, MBA 

Subject: Supports Packages and Individual Planning Calendar Testing and Future

DBHDS has been working in collaboration with five CSBs to Beta test the individual planning calendar and the supports packages tools in the Waiver Management System (WaMS). Through surveys and conversations with those case managers implementing these tools, DBHDS has received overall positive feedback. These tools encourage individuals and their families to explore how to become more integrated into their local communities.

In addition, On April 23, 2019 during the court hearing, Judge Gibney made it clear all actions the Commonwealth intends to implement to bring the Commonwealth into compliance must occur by July 1, 2020. This allows enough time for the Commonwealth to demonstrate at least one full year of viability and sustainability of the process prior to our exit date of July 1, 2021.

Prior to securing extensive data from the beta testing, the General Assembly inserted the following language into the FY 2020 amended budget bill which is awaiting the Governor's signature:

The Department of Behavioral Health and Development Services and the Department of Medical Assistance services shall not implement the proposed individualized supports budget process for the Medicaid Community Living, Family and Individual Support and Building Independence Waiver programs without the explicit authorization of the General Assembly through legislation or authorizing budget language.

This memorandum serves as notification that, in response to the budget language and effective 7/1/19, DBHDS will deactivate the budget calculator process of the supports package module in WaMS. This information will be grayed out and not utilized by case managers or families as part of the planning process. DBHDS will proceed with the implementation of the planning calendar and the aspirational calendar. The questions the case manager must answer are also being modified. This portion of the module is designed to help case managers assess whether the supports the person is receiving is meeting his/her needs. DBHDS uses this data to determine the adequacy of the community system of services.

In summary, the individual planning calendars will be a crucial component that enables the Commonwealth to come into compliance with the Settlement Agreement and it must be fully operational by July 1, 2020. More importantly, this vital tool will help assure individuals are receiving the supports and services they need by:

- setting the stage for case managers to have robust conversations with individuals and their support systems to ensure services and supports are meeting the individuals' needs now and promote the establishment of meaningful outcomes and needed supports for the future;
- collecting data regarding supports and services needed by individuals that are not currently available in certain geographic areas, thus enabling provider development efforts to address systemic gaps, and;
- allowing the department to use the collected data to respond to the Independent Reviewer findings, as well as to enhance system capacity in a targeted and meaningful way.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in ensuring the availability of increased knowledge and expertise for staff providing the critical service of support coordination /case management. If you require additional information regarding this, please contact Dawn Traver dawn.traver@dbhds.virginia.gov.

c: VNPP
VaACCSES
The Arc of Virginia
Centers for Independent Living
Virginia Board for People with Disabilities
Dr. Daniel Carey, Secretary of Health and Human Resources
Ms. Susan Massart, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, House Appropriations Committee
Mr. Mike Tweedy, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, Senate Finance Committee
Ms. Ann Bevan, DMAS