



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Office of Medicaid
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Boston, Massachusetts 02108



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Chairwoman Karen E. Spilka
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State House, Room 212
Boston, MA 02133

Chairman Brian S. Dempsey
House Committee on Ways and Means
State House, Room 243
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairwoman Spilka and Chairman Dempsey,

Chapter 46 of the Acts of 2015 requires, in Section 2, line item 4000-0300, that MassHealth report to you on the feasibility of federal reimbursement for transitional support services. I am writing to you in order to fulfill this reporting requirement.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a State Medicaid Director letter (SMD #15-003) on July 27, 2015 regarding new service delivery opportunities for Individuals with Substance Use Disorder (SUD). Since the issuance of this letter, the Office of Medicaid and the Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) have worked jointly to envision and develop a substance use treatment system that includes Transitional Support Services (TSS), currently funded solely by BSAS.

Through this process, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) anticipates submitting to CMS an 1115 Waiver to expand substance use disorder treatment services that will include TSS. As part of this expansion, the state intends to develop SUD services that align with the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) level of care placement criteria. Based on the initial evaluation of TSS, this service meets ASAM Level of Care placement criteria Level 3.1, Clinically Managed Low-Intensity Residential Service. Under this SUD Waiver, the Commonwealth would request to enhance coverage for residential services by providing Medicaid coverage in full for the first 30 days of coverage in TSS. The SMD letter specifically states that short-term residential SUD treatment in settings that meet the definition of an Institute of Mental Disease (IMD) stay will be limited to an average length of stay of thirty (30) days.

EOHHS expects to submit this 1115 Waiver to expand SUD treatment services during fiscal year 2016.

I am grateful for your continued support of the MassHealth program. Please feel free to contact John May at 617-573-1763 should you have any questions about this report.

Sincerely,

Daniel Tsai
Assistant Secretary for MassHealth

cc: Marylou Sudders, Secretary, Executive Office of Health and Human Services

