

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Pursuant to the authority of G.L. c. 19B, §§ 1 and 14, and G. L. c. 123B, § 2 and in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, the Department of Developmental Services (“DDS”) will hold public hearings and accept public comments pertaining to its proposed regulations at: 115 CMR 14.00: Self-Directed Programs.

115 CMR 14.00 implements G.L. c.19B, §19 - Self-determination option for individuals eligible for services (“Real Lives Bill,” Chapter 255 of the Acts of 2014). “Self-determination” is the statutory term that encompasses “an approach to service delivery in which the participant is given control over the decision-making process for the participant's supports or services and budget and the participant may tailor the support to meet the participant's needs.” G.L. c. 19B, § 19(a). Proposed 115 CMR 14.00 implements DDS’ self-directed programs, which offer eligible individuals an alternative to traditional services operated, certified, licensed, or contracted for or otherwise funded by the Department. Self-directed programs promote independence in service planning while providing equitable access to the Department’s resources for individuals receiving services from the Department.

A public hearing will be held remotely via Webex on **November 21, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.**

Join from meeting link:

<https://eohhs.webex.com/eohhs/j.php?MTID=m1df8327ec707a11386b6d8d55dfcd217>

Or join by phone: Join by phone +1-650-479-3208

Meeting number (access code): 2532 603 6477

Meeting password: ZYsVXb3ZQ78

Join from a video system or application:

Dial 25326036477@eohhs.webex.com

You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number

Information on joining a Webex meeting can be found on the DDS website at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/dds-notice-of-public-hearing-and-opportunity-for-public-comment>

You may pre-register to testify at this hearing by email at dds.regs.comments@mass.gov with your first and last name, preferred email address, and organization or affiliation, if any. Pre-registration is not required to attend or testify at the hearing.

You may also submit written comments electronically instead of, or in addition to, live testimony at the hearing, to the Department at the following address: dds.regs.comments@mass.gov. Submissions should include the sender's full name, mailing address, and organization or affiliation, if any. Individuals also may submit written testimony to the Office of the General Counsel, 1000 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02118. All written comments submitted to the Department may be posted on the Department's website and released in response to a request for public records. All written testimony must be received by 5:00 p.m. on November 21, 2022.

A current draft of the proposed regulations may be viewed on the Department's website at: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/dds-notice-of-public-hearing-and-opportunity-for-public-comment> or obtained from the Office of the General Counsel at (617) 624-7702. Special accommodation requests may be made by telephone to the Office of the General Counsel at (617) 624-7702 or videophone at (857) 366-4179 (for persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech disabled). Requests for a sign language or other interpreter must be made at least two weeks in advance of the hearing.

The Department may adopt a revised version of the proposed regulations taking into account relevant comments and other practical alternatives that come to its attention.

By Order of the Department of Developmental Services,
JANE F. RYDER, COMMISSIONER

October 24, 2022