

Topic	Question	Response
1 Area Agencies	What is the impact of the system work on Area Agencies?	As part of the system work, BDS is not currently enacting direct change to the structure of Area Agencies.  Area Agencies remain an important stakeholder group and are involved in the decision-making process around rate and waiver structure changes. We are also working with the Area Agencies (AAs) to respond to the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare's corrective action plan whereby AAs cannot provide case management services and also be a service provider to the same person. As a result, AAs must make a decision as to how they wish to operate going forward, and such decisions would also play an important role in how the system evolves going forward.
2 Assessment Tools	What are the assessment tools that will be used to determine support need?	BDS is currently conducting a review of available and appropriate assessment tools best suited for its waiver programs. Additional information will be shared as available to keep stakeholders actively engaged in the process.
3 Community/Staff Impact	What impacts (including those on wages) will the system work have on DSPs, program managers, and other staff?	While it is not yet known all of the ways DSPs will be impacted in and by this work, BDS believes that DSPs must be fairly compensated and that annual adjustments be made accordingly. Part of the expense to do that will come from making adjustments within the current allocation process such as returning high cost placements from out-of-state and reinvesting those funds in to community base placements in NH, as well as developing community based supports that could prevent the need for more expensive interventions.  We are committed to keeping DSPs and other members of the support community central in this work. Specifically, we are excited to modernize our rate reimbursement structure in this process by emphasizing the role of direct support as the basis of rates. We stay committed to supporting DSPs and providers in their efforts to recruit and retain highly qualified staff to support people with developmental disabilities.
4 Family Engagement	Will / How will families and individuals be included in the system work?	Individuals and families are key to all BDS initiatives. As the most impacted group touched by these changes, we are excited to stay actively engaged with individuals and families. We are actively developing structures to support this, including participation in work groups, quarterly town hall meetings, and content resources and information posted to our dedicated webpages.
5 Funding	Will / How will funding for existing services be impacted by this system work?	On September 28th, BDS published a Request for Proposals (RFP) for qualified rate vendors to establish and update service rates which aim to reduce some of the existing issues within the funding structure. Vendor proposals are due by October 29th, 2021.
6 General	What is the timing of work group committee selections? Will there be future opportunities to join in the work group structure?	BDS has selected and is currently engaging three initial work groups in dialogue and feedback around its rate and waiver structure work. At this time, all work group seats are filled, but we will periodically reach out to interested stakeholders to fill newly added or vacated seats.  Members of the public will also have the opportunity to attend and listen to these work group discussions, live, and provide feedback by email.
7 General	Is the A&M and BDS system work about cost savings?	No. As evidenced in the A&M Phase 1A report, the opportunities focused on investing in BDS services. The goal of the system work is the ensure that BDS administers services that most effectively meet each individual's needs and goals.  A key component of this system work is also focused on investments in IT. Modernization of our IT systems will help us to more accurately provide the NH Legislature with a better understanding of how services are utilized and the cost of care. We will need an advocacy and communication strategy to continue to seek the resources we need.
8 General	What is the timeline of the system work?	Please reference the A&M Phase 1A report for proposed timelines. Note that all timelines are tentative and subject to change.
9 Rate Development	How will funding for existing services be impacted by this system work?	On September 28th, BDS published a Request for Proposals (RFP) for qualified rate vendors to establish and update service rates which aim to reduce some of the existing issues within the funding structure. Vendor proposals are due by October 29th, 2021.
10 Technology	How will the system work affect other ongoing activities like the rollout of Electronic Visit Verification?	BDS continues to collaborate and coordinate with ongoing efforts across DHHS. Project timelines, project plans and project resources are continuously evaluated to ensure all critical activities and initiatives are appropriately planned for.
11 Waiver Services	Will the system work incentivize residential placement?	No. The system work does not and will not incentivize residential placement. BDS seeks a system where, through strong case management, individuals have access to a broader array of services and supports that best meet their individual support needs appropriately.
12 Waiver Services	How will services be differentiated between the comprehensive and support waivers?	A supports waiver is designed to complement and reinforce natural supports that are most often provided at home with family members and friends.  A comprehensive waiver includes services provided to individuals who require more intensive care. Services in a comprehensive waiver are designed to maximize an individual's independence while encouraging inclusion into the community – with additional capacity for comprehensive, complex supports.  To determine which services will be included in each waiver, BDS has engaged a waiver work group, which is meeting monthly to participate in discussions around the appropriate service allocation between a comprehensive and supports waiver. Members of the public will also have the opportunity to attend and listen to these work group deliberations, live, and provide feedback by email.
13 Waiver Services	Will the system work include changes to other waivers?	At this time, BDS is not considering changes to other waivers outside of those outlined in the recommendations of the A&M Phase 1A report.