

**New Hampshire HCBS Corrective Action Plan (CAP) Template**

**Waivers NH.0053, NH.4177, and NH.0397**

**Effective Date: 04/21/17**

**Amended: 04/27/2018**

**Amended 1/1/2023**

**1. Section One - Completed by CMS**

On December 13, 2016, CMS sent the following correspondence to the State: CMS has determined that New Hampshire is out of compliance with direct pay and conflict of interest regulations, which specifically impacts the pending renewals for the Developmental Disabilities Waiver (NH.0053) and the Acquired Brain Disorders Waiver (NH.4177). Additionally, the In-Home Supports for Children with Developmental Disabilities Waiver (NH.0397) is out of compliance. In order to bring the waivers into compliance with federal regulations, the State should develop a corrective action plan (CAP) to address the two issues outlined below. CMS cannot approve any pending NH waiver actions until the CAP is approved and implemented. Here are the issues:

**Issue #1: Organized Health Care Delivery System (OHCDS) – Direct Pay Rule**

The State of New Hampshire is currently in violation of federal direct pay rules by requiring service providers to bill through an OHCDS without the ability to bill Medicaid directly. In summary, the NH OHCDS structure provides payments to providers through the ten Area Agencies, which does not allow for the voluntary affiliation of providers due to the required provider agreement through the OHCDS. The current State process is in violation of 42 CFR §447.10, which allows providers the option to choose whether or not to affiliate with the OHCDS (Technical Guide, pp. 261-262).

Question #1: What are the specific processes and projects necessary to bring the OHCDS into compliance with direct pay rules and what is the estimated timeframe for completion of this process?

**Issue #2: Case Management Services – Conflict of Interest**

The State is currently in violation of federal conflict of interest (COI) rules, which require the State to separate service plan development/case management providers from direct service providers. The State's Area Agency structure appears to provide case management services and direct services through the same set of limited providers which is not in compliance with conflict of interest rules.

Question #2: How does the State intend to come into compliance with the requirement to provide conflict-free case management to its waiver participants?

## **2. Section Two – Completed by CMS**

### **State Action Requested by CMS:**

1. Submit a draft corrective action plan (CAP) to CMS by **January 31, 2017**. This CAP should include a chart with the timeframe, status and action steps needed to correct the violations of the HCBS regulations noted above. The State should also include monthly updates to CMS through this CAP.
2. For NH.4177: Take the current waiver action off the clock to allow time for the approval of the CAP. The creation of a CAP is grounds for CMS to grant a temporary extension.
3. For NH.0053: Despite the waiver action being off the clock, we still need to extend the current waiver period. The creation of a CAP is grounds for CMS to grant a temporary extension.
4. For NH.0397: This waiver application should be amended to incorporate the CAP.
5. CMS will hold regularly scheduled monitoring calls and will review progress reports, to determine the State's compliance with the approved CAP.

## **3. Section Three - Completed by the State**

The State of New Hampshire, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) through its Bureau of Developmental Services (BDS) is in the process of renewing the following two Section 1915(c) waivers:

- 0053- Developmental Disability
- 4177- Acquired Brain Disorder
- 0397- In Home Supports for Children

During the Request for Additional Information (RAI) phase of the Waiver renewal process, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) determined that New Hampshire was out of compliance with direct pay and conflict of interest regulations. CMS requested that the state develop a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) to come into compliance.

NH is submitting the attached CAP to:

- 1) Develop a timeline and implementation plan to provide services that comply with Conflict of Interest (COI) Regulations for those receiving Waiver Services under the following NH Waivers: 0053- Developmental Disability, 4177- Acquired Brain Disorder, and 0397- In Home Supports for Children;

- 2) Develop a timeline and implementation plan to ensure that NH's Organized Health Care Delivery System (OHCDS) under the following NH Waivers: 0053- Developmental Disability, 4177- Acquired Brain Disorder, 0397- In Home Supports for Children and does the following:
  - (a) Permits providers to voluntarily waive their right of direct payment and accept payment through the OHCDS; and,
  - (b) Offer the provision of and system for direct payment for providers without assigning payment to the OHCDS.

Both outcomes identified above represent significant changes to New Hampshire's Developmental Services system, and will require substantial stakeholder engagement and system development. The state intends to be in full compliance with COI and OHCDS by August 31, 2021.

New Hampshire has determined that a rich stakeholder-engaged process will need to occur, especially with the COI changes for the following reasons:

1. Due to New Hampshire's individualized service delivery system, the state will need to explore a variety of solutions for different geographic areas of the state. It is unlikely that one uniform system will meet the needs of the entire population in every region of the state.
2. Some regions are fully conflict free at this time, others are partially, and others are not. Ensuring that access is equal across the state requires significant research, analysis and stakeholder engagement in order to understand local needs and current levels of alignment with conflict of interest regulations.
3. Changing how Case Management will be delivered will impact the direct provider responsibilities and functions in some areas of the state. Identifying and working through these changes prior to enabling providers to directly bill Medicaid is a logical sequence of planning. Through the CAP implementation process, some Area Agencies may change what they provide and how they contract, which will subsequently affect the OHCDS and impact this component of the CAP.

Individuals and families receiving services through the DD and ABD waivers are pleased with the current delivery system. In accordance with state administrative rules He-M 503 and He-M 522, individuals and families have full choice of providers, including service coordination and direct service providers. Families, as reported in the 2015 National Core Indicators (NCI) Report, have high satisfaction with the provision of Service Coordination. Stakeholders will be skeptical of the need to change how the system currently operates. New Hampshire needs sufficient time, to conduct and process meaningful stakeholder engagement regarding these changes, Individuals and

families have been at the center of any and all changes relative to the developmental services system and they need to be an integral component of any change New Hampshire undertakes with respect to this system.

Specifically, with regards to the OHCDS, New Hampshire needs to maintain its relationship with the Area Agencies as an essential component of the OHCDS. Area Agencies are the safety net for NH citizens with disabilities and serve in a quasi-governmental function ensuring that no-one eligible for services is turned away. New Hampshire does not have any state-operated services or institutions for people with developmental disabilities and/or acquired brain disorders, and subsequently it relies on the Area Agencies to carry out administrative functions and to be the safety net for our residents in need of developmental disability services

The NH Developmental Disability services system is facing multiple changes. The CAP implementation requires a realistic timeframe to ensure thoughtful, strategic, forward-thinking, and rich stakeholder process that is aligned with other major initiatives affecting the DD and ABD waivers to minimize disruption for the New Hampshire residents who rely on the Area Agency system in its current form to live day-to-day. The CAP is attached.

#### **4. Section Four – State Signatures**

Signature for Draft CAP

- *Christine Santaniello*

Christine Santaniello, BDS Director, NH DHHS, March 9, 2017

- Signature line, title and date the state submitted the final CAP

#### **5. Section Five – CMS Review: This section is used by CMS to document actions taken to review and approve the CAP.**

#### **Key Dates for NH CAP Implementation:**

See attached Excel Spreadsheet

**Monitoring Calls:** CMS will schedule monthly or bi-monthly monitoring calls to determine the State's compliance with the approved CAP from March 2017 through July 2018, or until the corrective action plan is fully implemented. Monitoring call dates will be scheduled at times agreed upon by both CMS staff and State staff.

**Progress Reports:** The State will submit quarterly written progress reports to the CMS CAP Team for review and comment. The first report will be due by July 1, 2017, and will be submitted quarterly until the corrective action has been finalized.