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Clinical Communication Bulletin 51

To: State Funded Adult Day Vocational Program Providers
From: Cindy Ehlers, Chief Operations Officer
Date: May 9, 2024
Subject: Changes in ADVP for State-Funded IDD Members

CHANGES IN ADVP FOR STATE-FUNDED IDD MEMBERS

The purpose of this memo is to address recent concerns about Adult Day Vocational Day Program (ADVP) for members, families, providers and other stakeholders. Trillium has heard concerns from its provider and member community about a change Trillium intended to make to the way we fund ADVP. Be assured that no changes have been made at this time that will negatively impact members or providers. Additionally, based on these concerns raised, Trillium does not intend to implement any changes in the future to ADVP that impact member choice. The health and wellbeing of our members is our top priority and the feedback we've heard tells us we need to make some adjustments to our intended plans for this valued service. This memo outlines the changes that were planned for ADVP and the reason for those changes, as well as what Trillium plans to do to address the concerns we've been hearing. In partnership with members, families, providers and the Department, Trillium developed and implemented an approved Medicaid In Lieu of Service (ILOS) called Community Living and Facility Supports (CLFS) in 2015. Trillium developed this service as an alternative to ADVP funded by State dollars for two main reasons: , first, Medicaid services offer members entitlements and more flexibility and opportunity for members; second, State funds are subject to change year to year and Medicaid funded services offer reliable treatment options year after year.

Prior to the consolidation of Sandhills Center and Eastpointe into Trillium on January 1, 2024, members across Trillium's legacy 28 counties received CLFS since this Medicaid ILOS was first introduced in 2015. Each time a new county has joined Trillium since 2015, Trillium has worked with the members, families and providers to migrate into this service. The ILOS Medicaid service definition for CLFS has an important and unique component that creates the opportunity for members to build their own "Meaningful Day," as defined by the member. The member preference for their own personal Meaningful Day then becomes a part of the individualized service plan.

The Meaningful Day service component of this ILOS definition is the most flexible service for members. It offers a Medicaid-funded member many opportunities, for instance, a member can choose to work in a sheltered environment, retire and do retirement activities, or do the things the member defines for their day just as everyone else does, but with needed supports. Trillium supports members in choosing the life they want and have the supports to live it on their terms.

With the launch of this new Medicaid benefit in 2015, Trillium was able to phase-out the ADVP State-funded benefit. We discovered that all of the adult members with IDD that were State-funded also had Medicaid, so we were able to seamlessly migrate each of these members to this ILOS covered by their Medicaid benefits. Also, ADVP providers were able to maintain licenses that comply with facility requirements for those members that chose sheltered work as a part of their Meaningful Day.

WHERE WE ARE TODAY

In the Fall of 2023, the North Carolina General Assembly passed 2023- Session Law 2023-115 and it seeks to offer protections to members that choose ADVP services. It reads:

SECTION 1. The Department of Health and Human Services shall not enact policy that reduces or eliminates services provided at Adult Developmental and Vocational Programs (ADVP) or Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRP) without (i) fully following procedures regarding stakeholder notification and input and (ii) appropriately funding a robust array of services that reflect choice.

SECTION 2. The Department of Health and Human Services shall not permit a reduction in admission to ADVPs and CRPs until current services are appropriately reviewed and any new services are approved through statutory or regulatory processes.

SECTION 3. The General Assembly encourages the North Carolina Congressional Delegation to review the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act's rules and definitions, as promulgated by the United States Department of Education, to assess for any negative impact to the citizens of North Carolina.

Meaningful Day, as an approved component of the CLFS ILOS service definition under Medicaid, is comparable to State-funded ADVP and was approved by the NCDHHS (the Department) and put into place in the legacy Trillium counties prior to this law passing. Trillium followed the procedures, processes and notification requirements that are in place in accordance with Trillium's contract with the North Carolina Division of Health Benefits to operationalize this Medicaid benefit. Both Sandhills Center and Eastpointe Human Services were in the process of completing this migration and had migrated about 50% of their providers to this ILOS prior to this Session Law 2023-115 passing and prior to the consolidation with Trillium. For ease of transition during the consolidation for all involved, Trillium paused any additional migration from State-funded ADVP to the Medicaid-funded ILOS in an effort to

assure there was no member or provider service or contract disruptions. Trillium reinstated State-funded ADVP for the legacy Eastpointe and Sandhills members as a State-funded benefit under Trillium as the surviving entity of the legislatively required and Department-approved consolidation.

WHERE WE ARE GOING

Trillium's benefit plan offers members the choice to move to CLS-ILOS as a Medicaid entitlement service or retain State-funded ADVP. Trillium will also offer contracts to providers enrolled in NC Tracks that deliver the services covered by the ILOS, once those providers have completed the necessary training to deliver these services as required by the ILOS. This means that new admissions to ADVP are ongoing and may continue past June 30, 2024.

STAKEHOLDER INPUT

As the State of North Carolina embarks upon the next phase of Medicaid Transformation and the launch of Tailored Plans, we understand questions and concerns will arise from time to time. From members and families to providers and other stakeholders, we invite you to continue to raise your questions and concerns and in turn, we commit that we will lean in to resolve them as quickly as possible. Not only do we want to ensure that we adequately address stakeholder input as required by law, but we want to hear directly from people using the services.

Trillium has scheduled Town Hall meetings across our region to gather input from our members, families, providers and community stakeholders. We anticipate this information-gathering process may take six to nine months to complete. New admissions to ADVP will remain open during this time-frame for members that may wish to enter the service with those providers that still deliver ADVP.

Once we have heard from our communities about their needs, Trillium will work with the Department to determine the next steps for this important service.

Thank you for your attention to this communication. All questions related to this Clinical Communication Bulletin can be sent to UM@TrilliumNC.org. Questions will be responded to as quickly as possible.