



Special Committee on HCBS I/DD Waiver

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Proudly Serving Kansas

- Aetna Better Health of Kansas has been proudly serving Kansas Medicaid members across the State, including those on the I/DD waiver, since 2019.
- We currently support nearly 1,500 members who are on the I/DD Waiver.
- We offer supported employment opportunities to our eligible I/DD members, assisting them on their journey towards independence.
- We believe that our members and their families should have the opportunity to be leaders in their care and work to ensure they are informed to make the best care decisions.





I/DD Workforce Concerns

- Workforce shortages are occurring for both Agency Direct providers and for members self-directing Personal Care Services.
- Reimbursement rates seem to be a barrier to hiring and retaining quality direct care workers in both rural and urban settings.
- Members and families are expressing concern about provider capacity when family members are no longer approved to provide personal care services, post-PHE.

Mitigating Workforce Concerns

- State provided COVID-19 guidance is currently allowing flexibility in the way HCBS services can be provided during the PHE.
- Many family members are serving as paid caregivers when outside staff are unable to be located.

I/DD Workforce Impact of COVID-19

- Day Service providers are experiencing temporary shutdowns as a result of the pandemic.
- Residential providers are combining group homes to ensure there is adequate staff coverage.
- Direct Care workers are experiencing instability in work schedules.
- Members are choosing to receive services at home in lieu of congregate settings.
- Members are opting to have family members provide supports to limit exposure.

Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19

- Aetna colleagues continue to provide enhanced outreach to members and communicate with service providers to ensure needed services are in place.
- We continue to monitor utilization of services to ensure gaps are addressed and alternative options are explored to ensure that members are provided the care that they need and deserve.



I/DD Reimbursement Rates

- A 5% rate increase was implemented for Intellectual/Developmentally Disabled (I/DD) services effective April 1, 2021, through June 30, 2021, with an additional 2% rate increase implemented for ID/D services effective July 1, 2021. All of these increases are passed through to providers.
- The rate disparity between TA Waiver and IDD Waiver creates continuity of care concerns for TA members transitioning to the I/DD Waiver.
- Specialized Medical Care rate for TA Waiver increased to \$43 per hour on July 1, 2021, while Specialized Medical Care for I/DD Waiver is currently at \$34.96 per hour.
- Specialized Medical Care Providers are also experiencing nursing shortage due to COVID-19, at least partially due to current rates not being competitive in the current climate.
- We have heard providers and stakeholders expressing concerns with reimbursement rates for direct care workers and nurses.
- Specialized Medical Care (nursing services) were included in the rate increase, however even with the recent rate increase, providers are struggling to hire enough nurses to meet the need of members.
- Aetna continues to negotiate enhanced rates with providers through Single Case Agreements to ensure members have the services and supports they need to remain in the community.