

Family Support Waiver Update

Advisory Committee on Developmental Disabilities
1 December 2022

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Sub-Agenda

- Stakeholder Online Survey
- Stakeholder Listening Sessions
- Service and Supports Recommendations
- Other Updates-
 - Technical Assistance
 - Communications
 - Regulations
 - System Evaluation

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Online Survey

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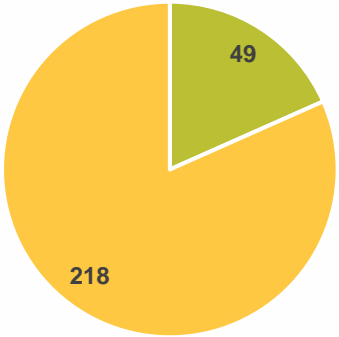
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Online Survey



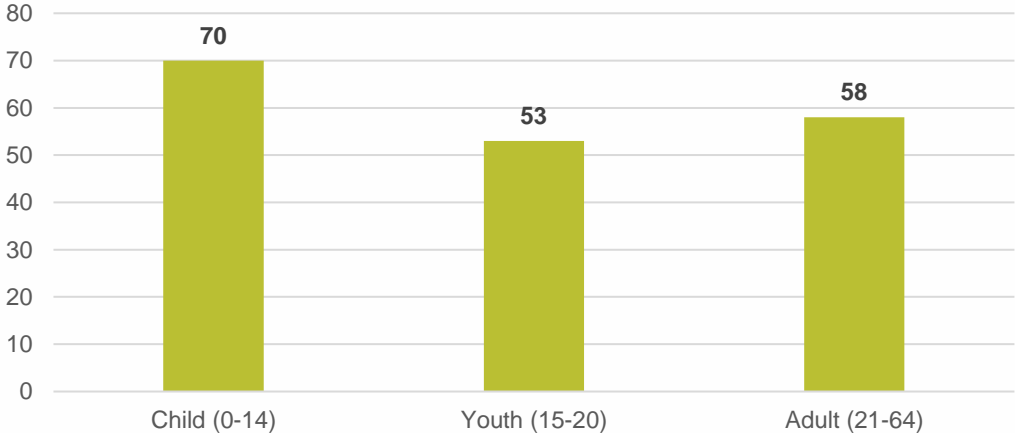
Family Support Waiver Engagement Survey October 13 - 27, 2022

Completed Surveys



■ Incomplete ■ Complete

Which best describes the individual you represent?



Total Responses: 267
- Families: 187
- Individuals w IDD: 7
- Other: 73

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Requested Services and Supports from Prior Engagement and Testimony

- Family & Caregiver Training
- Participant Education & Training
- Family and Peer Mentoring
- Supports
- Participant Directed Goods & Services
- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Psychological Therapy
- Movement Therapy
- Aquatics Therapy
- Feeding Therapy
- Equine, Music, and Art Therapy
- Behavioral Therapy
- G-Tube & Feeding Medical
- Supplies
- Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT)
- Applied Behavioral Analysis
- Specialized Formulas
- Specialty Medical Care
- Durable Medical Equipment
- Environmental Modification (Home or Vehicle)
- Assisted Technology
- Independent Living Skills
- Community Supports and Navigation
- In-Home Intense Behavioral Support
- Transportation
- Specialized Childcare
- Respite
- Adaptive Recreational Equipment and Fees
- Family Caregiver Stipend
- Specialized Clothes
- Incontinence Supplies

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Additional Services and Supports Requested

- Therapy for Caregivers
- Service Animal
- Visual and Hearing-Impaired Equipment
- Peer Support Specialists
- Support for Qualifying Independent Providers
- Developmental Therapy
- Legal Advocacy
- Directed Personal Care Assistance
- Family Member Transportation Cost Coverage
- Brail Documents
- In Home Educational Services
- 20 Hour/Week Staff Support
- Over the Counter Supplies and Medications
- Residential

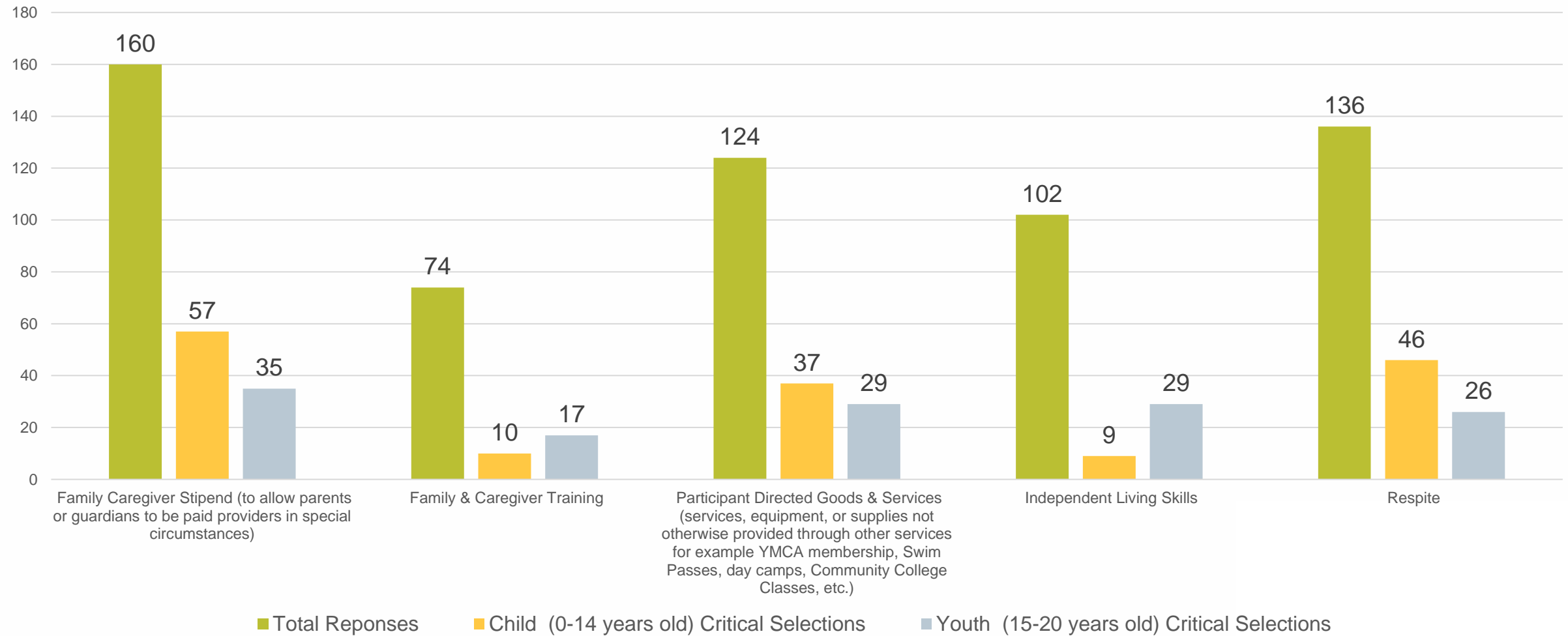
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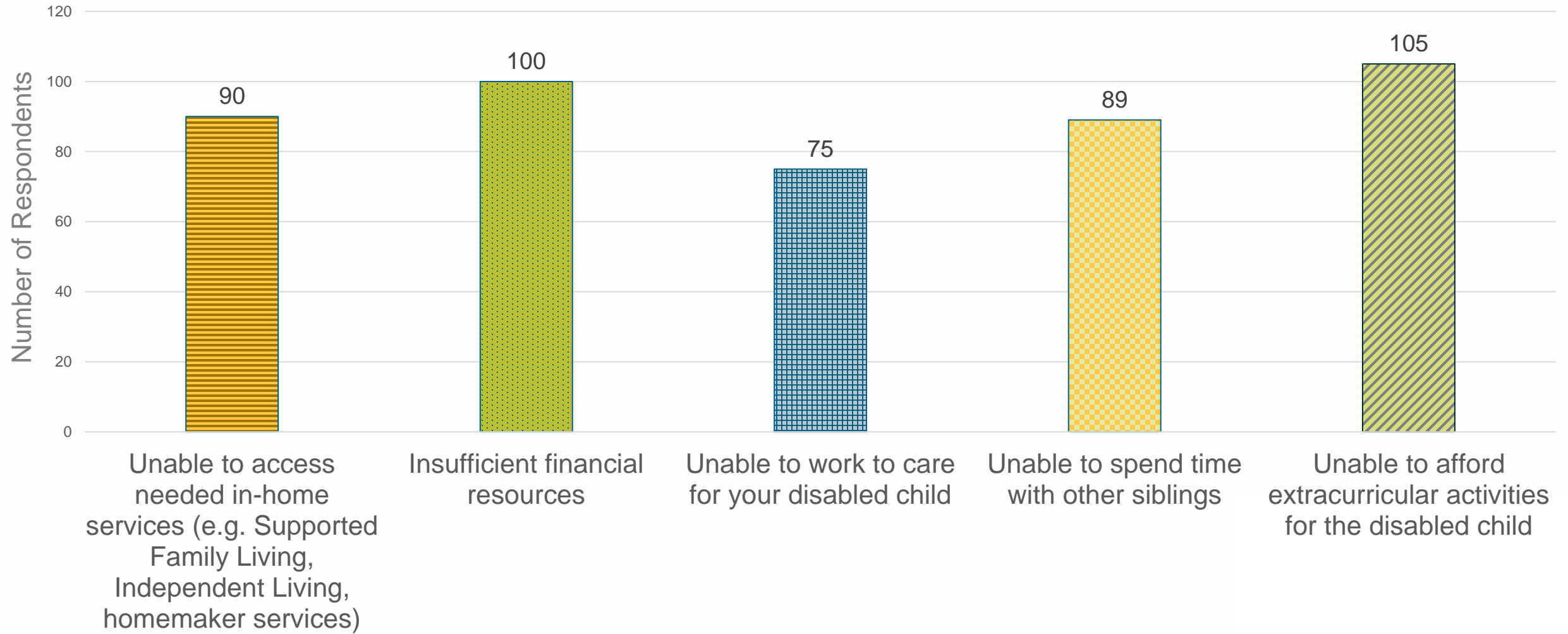
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Top 5 Critical Services and Supports Requested



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Top 5 Barriers Families Experience



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Listening Sessions

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Listening Sessions



Listening Sessions

- November 1, 2022, 6:00 pm Central
- November 2, 2022, 9:30 am Central

- ▶ Total Attendees:
- ▶ Key Observations-
 - Lack of Differentiation between Medicaid and HCBS Services
 - Desire for Payments to Legally Responsible Parents/Guardians of Minor Children
 - Desire for more expedient waiver development rather than services or supports that may take longer to develop

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Services & Supports Recommendations

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Existing Services

- Respite (requested on survey and could include camp fees)
- Assistive Technology
- Child Day Habilitation (requested as Specialized Childcare on survey)
- Community Integration
- Day Supports
- Environmental Modification Assessment
- Home Modifications
- Homemaker
- Independent Living (requested as Independent Living Skills on survey)
- Personal Emergency Response System (PERs)
- Supported Family Living (requested as Independent Living Skills on survey)
- Transportation
- Vehicle Modifications

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Recommendations for Additional Services

- Family and Caregiver Training
- Family and Peer Mentoring Supports
- Participant Directed Goods and Services
- Music Therapy
- Art Therapy
- Aquatics Therapy
- Equine (Hippo) Therapy

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Family and Caregiver Training

- Requested in Survey and Listening Sessions
- **Description:** Service is individualized as related to the need. Provides training and counseling for unpaid family members or caregivers.

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Family and Peer Mentoring

- Requested in Survey and Listening Sessions
- **Description:** Provides mentors who have shared experiences with families and/or participants to provide support, education, and guidance by sharing strategies and experiences in navigate the system and resources.
- Other states are struggling with this service.
 - Differentiation between Family/Peer Mentoring and Service Coordination
 - Willingness of Families/Peer groups to become Medicaid providers
 - States are struggling with underutilization (MD) with many moving towards the development of a free, online training library (PA/OH)

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Participant Directed Goods and Services

- Requested in Survey and Listening Sessions
- **Description:** Equipment or supplies not provided through the waiver or the Medicaid state plan. Item or service would decrease the need for Medicaid, and/or promote community inclusion, and/or increase safety in the home. However, per CMS Tech Guide, this is limited to waivers that incorporate the Budget Authority participant direction opportunity.
- **Other requested services that could be combined in this service**
 - **Incontinence Supplies if not covered in state plan**
 - **Adaptive recreational equipment and fees**
 - **Specialized Clothing**
- Policy recommends to not include “services” but rather item only.
 - Due to CMS Tech Guide citation, will receive TA for clarification

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Alternate Therapy Modalities

- Requested in Survey and Listening Sessions
- **Music Therapy**
 - **Description:** Service to enhance memory, develop, strengthen communication skills, improve motor skills through movement and manage stress. Assists a participant to improve cognitive functioning, emotional and affective development, and behavior skills.
- **Hippotherapy**
 - **Description:** To improve muscle tone, balance, posture, motor development, and sensory input. PT/OT/SLP works closely with an equine professional/expert horseback rider in developing and evaluating treatment strategies.
 - **Question:** Will the Medicaid state plan pay for hippotherapy if a licensed physical therapist, licensed occupational therapist, and/or licensed speech therapist is present during the service?
 - **This would exclude Equine-Assisted Therapy** that focuses on addressing mental health by caring for horses.

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Other Requested Alternate Therapy Modalities

Art Therapy

Description: Service to increase awareness of self and others, to cope with symptoms and stress by increasing cognitive abilities by making art as a mode of communication.

MLTC: Art is used as a method to help a pre-verbal child communicate stress, and is an option under Psychologic methods

Aquatics Therapy

Description: Service for participants with poor or lack of muscle tone or who may have a physical injury/disability that uses water resistance to promote strength, relaxation, and overall better health.

MLTC: Aquatic therapy is a modality in Physical therapy and can be used under PT when necessary

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MLTC State Plan Services

- Need for coordinated training in partnership with MLTC on requested services covered by the State Plan including:
 - Durable Medical Equipment
 - Speech Therapy
 - Occupational Therapy
 - Physical Therapy
 - Psychological Therapy
 - Specialty Medical Care
 - Feeding Therapy
 - G-Tube & Feeding Medical Supplies
 - Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT)
 - Behavior Therapy (including positive behavior support consultation)
 - Applied Behavioral Analysis
 - In-Home Intense Behavioral Support
 - Specialized Formula
 - Visual and Hearing-Impaired Equipment
 - Direct Personal Care Assistance
 - Family Member Transportation Cost Coverage

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Other Updates

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Technical Assistance

- Approved on November 16 by CMS for Technical Assistance regarding service definitions and performance measures
- Consultants from Sage Squirrel (40 hours)
 - **Erika Robbins, M.A., PMP** directs large scale projects and teams focused on changing the way that people who need long term supports access and use publicly and privately funded health and social services. She has worked to transform health and social service delivery through the understanding and application of person-centered principles in program and policy design and evaluation, operational efficiency, the diffusion of innovative practices, and facilitation of cross-system collaboration and integration. She received her bachelor's degree from Hanover College and a master's degree from the Wright State University Applied Behavioral Science Program. She is an ambassador for LifeCourse, a person-centered practice framework.

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Communications

- New Website accessible from Main DD page
 - <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Initiatives-for-LB376.aspx>
- Information on Waiver and System Evaluation

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Regulations

- Regulations Sub-Committee has been meeting regularly including individuals from DHHS-DD, MLTC, and Legal Services
- Initial language has been developed on:
 - Eligibility
 - Funding
 - Application
 - Level of Care
- Additional language will be developed as details are finalized

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System Evaluation

LB376 directs DHHS to review the current system. DHHS signed with CBIZ Optumas working in partnership with Myers and Stauffer to complete the evaluation of all Nebraska HCBS waivers.

DHHS will receive best practice recommendations and comparisons to other states.

Projected Timeline

- Kick-off Meeting- 16 November 2022
- System Analysis- November 2022- February 2023
- Service Comparison- March-June 2023
- Registry Comparison- April-July 2023
- Technical Assistance- June-November 2023
- Draft Report- Summer 2023
- Final Report- November 2023

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A blurred photograph of a person presenting to an audience with hands raised. The person in the foreground is wearing a red sweater and has their hand raised, holding a pen. The background shows a blurred audience and a presenter. The image is partially obscured by a white circular graphic on the right side of the slide.

Questions & Comments

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