OVERVIEW
The Advanced Home Care Aide Specialist (AHCAS) Pilot is a group effort between DSHS, HCS, and the SEIU 775 NW Training Partnership. It gives the Individual Provider (IP) advanced skills training with a focus on person-centered methods to caregiving. Along with behavioral support and continued care coordination by Health Home Care Coordinators, the pilot gives care receivers (clients) with complex needs a chance to:

- Increase their own health knowledge
- Enhance relationships with care givers
- Play a larger part in the management of their own health care

The program goal is also to reduce how often challenging behaviors occur, while stabilizing services and community-based living.

YOUR ROLE AS A CARE COORDINATOR
One service Care Coordinators (CCs) provide is the opportunity for care receivers to revise their Health Action Plan (HAP) after the IP completes the 70 hours of AHCAS training. The change includes a role for the IP which allows them to use learned skills when supporting the care receiver in reaching their goal noted on the HAP. The AHCAS program manager(s) listed on page 2 request notification when the HAP is revised. If an eligible pilot participant is identified as having enrolled in AHCAS but it is determined they are no longer engaged, efforts can be made by the CC to re-engage the care receiver.

ITS ABOUT THE CONVERSATION
CCs might consider opening the conversation in the following ways:

First, ask for permission:

- Ask the care receiver if they have received a brochure or packet with information on the Advanced Home Care Aide Specialist pilot. If they have any questions, please review the benefits with the care receiver and their IP.
- Ask if the care receiver or IP need more information and direct them to the AHCAS program manager.
- Ask the care receiver if they need help filling out the enrollment forms. Note that providing support in this way is a Health Home service a CC may provide.

Once the IP has completed the AHCAS training:

- Ask if the care receiver would mind talking about the AHCAS pilot.
- Remind the care receiver that they have agreed to revise their HAP by adding a support role for the IP.
- Ask if it would be an okay time to begin this process. If the care receiver agrees, ask them what support looks like for them.
• Ask if there is a goal or action steps they would like to work on with the support of the IP (who does not have to be present during the home visit).
• Make a copy of the HAP so the care receiver can share this with their IP.

If the care receiver has not been receiving services with care coordination, but they are still engaged:
• Ask them if they have recently received a brochure or a packet of information on the AHCAS pilot. Are they interested in talking more about the benefits of the pilot?
• If so, explain that in order for the IP to be eligible to take the training and the care receiver to receive the benefits, the care receiver must decide if they want to participate in the pilot or not.
• Ask them if they have any more questions about the pilot and if so refer them to the AHCAS program manager.

If a care receiver has been identified for the pilot but is no longer enrolled in the HH Program, please contact the ACHAS program manager. The care receiver would have to complete the re-enrollment process with the Health Care Authority.

NEXT STEPS
• Make sure you have the correct releases of information to speak with the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) case manager or AHCAS program manager.
• Complete or update the HH Information Sharing Consent Form with the care receiver and send this with any information shared during care coordination.
• Send notification of AHCAS care coordination efforts to the AHCAS program manager via secured email. This would include:
  o Notice that the HAP has been revised (a copy of the HAP is not needed, further revisions or termination of the HAP do not need to be reported).
  o Resistance to participate.
  o Any issues that may result in no longer being eligible for the pilot.
• CCs may also choose to send AHCAS care coordination information to the AAA case manager who authorized personal care services.

RESOURCES
Advanced Home Care Aide Specialist Pilot Website:
https://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/training/advanced-home-care-aide-specialist-training-pilot

AHCAS DDA Program Manager: Will Nichol
360-407-1510
William.Nichol@dshs.wa.gov

AHCAS HCS Program Manager: Dawn Okrasinski
360-725-2503
Dawn.Okrasinski@dshs.wa.gov