

Public Notice

To: Stakeholders

Subject: Draft 4-Year 1915(b) Mental Health Waiver Renewal

The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) intends to submit a request to renew for four (4) years the current Section 1915(b) managed care behavioral health waiver, known as the “Washington State Integrated Community Behavioral Health Program.”

Mental health services are funded by Medicaid and have been provided under a 1915(b) waiver since 1993. The amended 1915(b) waiver added Substance Use Disorder (SUD) services that are funded by Medicaid to the managed care waiver on April 1, 2016. This program provides managed care community behavioral health services to children; adults; blind/disabled children and adults; the aged population; foster care children; Title XXI SCHIP children and other special needs populations.

The April 1, 2016 1915(b) waiver was updated to authorize the delivery of Behavioral Health Services Only (BHSO) benefits in Clark and Skamania Counties as part of a legislative directive to provide integrated behavioral health benefits through managed care organizations. The waiver renewal will not change the way behavioral benefits are delivered in Clark and Skamania Counties as amended on April 1, 2016. BHA must submit its request for renewal to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) by June 30, 2016. Upon CMS approval, the renewed waiver will take effect on October 1, 2016. A copy of the draft renewal request document can be accessed that the Division of Behavioral Health and Recover web page

Please send all comments and questions regarding this waiver to Tara Smith, by phone at (360) 725-3701 or by email at tara.smith@dshs.wa.gov. Comments are due by June 15, 2016. When making comments please reference the page number(s) in the waiver document to indicate the location of the subject matter.

Please forward this information to any interested party.