

## NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Health  
Bureau of Health Services Financing  
and  
Office of Aging and Adult Services

Home and Community-Based Services Waivers  
Community Choices Waiver  
Self-Direction Initiative  
(LAC 50:XXI.8501)

The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing and the Office of Aging and Adult Services propose to amend LAC 50:XXI.8501 in the Medical Assistance Program as authorized by R.S. 36:254 and pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act. This proposed Rule is promulgated in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq.

The Community Choices Waiver (CCW) self-direction initiative allows participants to coordinate the delivery of personal assistance services through an individual direct support professional rather than through a licensed, enrolled provider. The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing and the Office of Aging and Adult Services promulgated an Emergency Rule which amended the provisions governing the CCW self-direction initiative in order to remove the specific age requirement for employees under the self-direction service option and stipulate that these providers must meet the minimum age requirement per LAC 48:I.Chapter 92 (*Louisiana Register*,

Volume 49, Number 6). This proposed Rule is being promulgated to continue the provisions of the June 9, 2023 Emergency Rule.

**Title 50**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH-MEDICAL ASSISTANCE**  
**Part XXI. Home and Community-Based Services Waivers**  
**Subpart 7. Community Choices Waiver**

**Chapter 85. Self-Direction Initiative**

**§8501. Self-Direction Service Option**

A. - C.2.d.vi. ...

D. Employee Qualifications. All employees under the self-direction option must:

1. ~~be at least 18 years of~~meet the minimum age ~~on~~  
~~the date of hire~~requirement per LAC 48:I.Chapter 92;

2. - 3. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:254 and Title XIX of the Social Security Act.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing and the Office of Aging and Adult Services, LR 37:3523 (December 2011), amended LR 39:321 (February 2013), LR 39:1779 (July 2013), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing and the Office of Aging and Adult Services, LR 44:1900 (October 2018), LR:49:

Implementation of the provisions of this Rule may be contingent upon the approval of the U.S. Department of Health

and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), if it is determined that submission to CMS for review and approval is required.

#### **Family Impact Statement**

In compliance with Act 1183 of the 1999 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the impact of this proposed Rule on the family has been considered. It is anticipated that this proposed Rule will have no impact on family functioning, stability or autonomy as described in R.S. 49:972.

#### **Poverty Impact Statement**

In compliance with Act 854 of the 2012 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the poverty impact of this proposed Rule has been considered. It is anticipated that this proposed Rule will have no impact on child, individual or family poverty in relation to individual or community asset development as described in R.S. 49:973.

#### **Small Business Analysis**

In compliance with the Small Business Protection Act, the economic impact of this proposed Rule on small businesses has been considered. It is anticipated that this proposed Rule will have a positive impact on small businesses by aligning the age requirements for employees under the self-direction service option with the licensing provisions for providers of these services.

### **Provider Impact Statement**

In compliance with House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 170 of the 2014 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the provider impact of this proposed Rule has been considered. It is anticipated that this proposed Rule will have no impact on the staffing level requirements to provide the same level of service, no direct or indirect cost to the provider to provide the same level of service, but may have a positive impact on the provider's qualifications and ability to provide the same level of service as described in HCR 170, since it aligns the age requirements for employees under the self-direction service option with the licensing provisions for providers of these services.

### **Public Comments**

Interested persons may submit written comments to Tara A. LeBlanc, Bureau of Health Services Financing, P.O. Box 91030, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9030. Ms. LeBlanc is responsible for responding to inquiries regarding this proposed Rule. The deadline for submitting written comments is at 4:30 p.m. on August 29, 2023.

### **Public Hearing**

Interested persons may submit a written request to conduct a public hearing by U.S. mail to the Office of the Secretary ATTN: LDH Rulemaking Coordinator, Post Office Box 629, Baton

Rouge, LA 70821-0629; however, such request must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. on August 9, 2023. If the criteria set forth in R.S. 49:961(B)(1) are satisfied, LDH will conduct a public hearing at 9:30 a.m. on August 24, 2023 in Room 173 of the Bienville Building, which is located at 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA. To confirm whether or not a public hearing will be held, interested persons should first call Allen Enger at (225) 342-1342 after August 9, 2023. If a public hearing is to be held, all interested persons are invited to attend and present data, views, comments, or arguments, orally or in writing.

Stephen R. Russo, JD

Secretary