

NOTICE OF INTENT

**Department of Health
Bureau of Health Services Financing
and
Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities**

**Home and Community-Based Services Waivers
Supports Waiver
(LAC 50:XXI.Chapters 53-61)**

The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities propose to amend LAC 50:XXI.Chapters 53-61 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 Department of Health, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities submitted an application for an amendment to the Supports Waiver to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in order to add and update services provided under the waiver.

The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities propose to amend the provisions governing the Supports Waiver to: 1) add specialized medical equipment and supplies (incontinence supplies) and community life engagement

development as services, and transportation as a separate service; 2) add reimbursement for each new service; and 3) allow prevocational services to be delivered virtually in order to align the administrative Rule with the CMS-approved waiver application.

Title 50
PUBLIC HEALTH-MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
Part XXI. Home and Community-Based Services Waivers
Subpart 5. Supports Waiver

Chapter 53. General Provisions

§5301. Purpose

A. The mission of this waiver is to create options and provide meaningful opportunities that enhance the lives of ~~men and women~~individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities through ~~vocational~~employment and day service supports in the community~~-inclusion~~. The goals of the supports waiver are as follows:

1. - 3. ...

B. Allocation of Waiver Opportunities. The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) maintains the ~~intellectual/~~developmental disabilities request for services registry (DDRSR), hereafter referred to as "the registry," which identifies persons with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities who are found eligible for developmental

disabilities services using standardized tools, and who request waiver services.

1. - 3. ...

4. OCDD waiver opportunities shall be offered based on the following priority groups:

a. Individuals living at publicly operated intermediate care facilities for the developmentally disabled (~~ICF/DDs~~ICF/IIDs) or who lived at a publically operated ~~ICF/DD~~ICF/IID when it was transitioned to a private ~~ICF/DD~~ICF/IID through a cooperative endeavor agreement (CEA facility), or their alternates. Alternates are defined as individuals living in a private ~~ICF/DD~~ICF/IID who will give up the private ~~ICF/DD~~ICF/IID bed to an individual living at a publicly operated ~~ICF/DD~~ICF/IID or to an individual who was living in a publicly operated ~~ICF/DD~~ICF/IID when it was transitioned to a private ~~ICF/DD~~ICF/IID through a cooperative endeavor agreement. Individuals requesting to transition from a publicly operated ~~ICF/DD~~ICF/IID are awarded a slot when one is requested, and their health and safety can be assured in an OCDD waiver. This also applies to individuals who were residing in a publicly operated facility at the time the facility was privatized and became a CEA facility.

b. ...

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, Office of the Secretary, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 32:1604 (September 2006), amended LR 40:2583 (December 2014), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 43:2531 (December 2017), LR 48:1574 (June 2022), LR 50:

Chapter 55. Target Population

§5503. Denial of Admission or Discharge Criteria

A. Beneficiaries shall be denied admission to, or discharged from, the supports waiver if one of the following criteria is met:

1. ...
2. the beneficiary does not meet the requirement for an ~~ICF/DD~~ICF/IID level of care;
3. - 4. ...
5. the beneficiary is admitted to an ~~ICF/DD~~ICF/IID ~~facility~~ or nursing facility with the intent to stay and not to return to waiver services:
 - a. ...

b. the beneficiary will be discharged from the waiver on the ninety-first day if the participant is still in the ~~ICF/DD~~ICF/IID or nursing facility;

6. - 8. ...

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 for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 40:2584 (December 2014), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 48:1575 (June 2022), LR 50:

Chapter 57. Covered Services

§5701. Supported Employment Services

A. Supported employment services consists of intensive, ongoing supports and services necessary for a beneficiary to achieve the desired outcome of employment in a community setting where a majority of the persons employed are without disabilities. Beneficiaries utilizing these services may need ~~long-term~~ongoing supports for the life of their employment due to the nature of their disability, and natural supports may not meet this need.

B. Supported employment services provide supports in the following areas:

1. ...

2. job assessment, discovery and development, placement; and

B.3. - C. ...

D. Transportation is ~~included in a~~ separate billable component for supported employment services, ~~but whenever possible, family, neighbors, friends, coworkers or community resources that can provide needed transportation without charge should be utilized~~ both individual and group. Transportation may be billed on the same day as a supported employment service is delivered.

E. ...

F. Supported employment services may be furnished by a coworker or other job-site personnel under the following circumstances:

1. ...

2. these ~~beneficiaries~~ coworkers meet the pertinent qualifications for the providers of the service.

G. Service Limitations

1. Services for job assessment, discovery and development in individual jobs and self-employment shall not exceed ~~2,880~~ the number of units ~~of service~~ as defined in a plan of care year and must have a prior authorization.

2. Services for job assessment, discovery and development in group employment shall not exceed ~~480~~the number of units ~~of service~~as defined in a plan of care year and must have a prior authorization.

3. Services for individual initial job support, job retention and follow-along shall not exceed ~~960~~the number of units of service as defined in a plan of care year and must have prior authorization. Individual job follow-along services may be delivered virtually.

4. Services for initial job support, job retention and follow-along in group employment shall not exceed ~~240~~the number of units of service as defined in a plan of care year and must have prior authorization.

H. Restrictions

1. Beneficiaries receiving individual and/or group supported employment services may also receive ~~prevocational or day habilitation~~other services in the same service day. However, these services cannot be provided ~~during~~at the same ~~service hours and cannot total more than five hours of services in~~time of the ~~same~~ day. ~~Beneficiaries receiving group supported employment services may also receive prevocational or day habilitation services; however, these services cannot be provided in the same service day.~~

2. All virtual individual supported employment services must be ~~approved by the LGE or the OCDD state office~~ documented and included in the plan of care. Virtual delivery of group supported employment is not allowed.

I. - J. ...

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, Office of the Secretary, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 32:1605 (September 2006), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 40:2585 (December 2014), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 43:2532 (December 2017), LR 48: LR 48:1575 (June 2022), LR 50:

§5703. Day Habilitation

A. ...

B. Day habilitation is the overarching service and may be delivered in a combination of these ~~three~~ two service types:

1. onsite day habilitation; and
2. community life engagement; ~~and~~ .

NOTE: Day habilitation services may be delivered virtually and be included in the approved plan of care.

3. ~~virtual day habilitation~~Repealed.

C. - D. ...

E. ~~All transportation costs are included in the reimbursement~~Transportation is a separate billable component for day habilitation services. ~~The beneficiary must be present to receive this~~A day habilitation service. ~~If a beneficiary needs transportation,~~ must be billed on the ~~provider must physically provide, arrange for, or pay for appropriate transport to and from a central location~~same day that ~~is convenient for the beneficiary and agreed upon by the team. The beneficiary's transportation needs and this central location shall~~is billed. Transportation cannot be ~~documented in the plan of care~~billed if the service is delivered virtually.

F. Service Limitations. Services shall not exceed ~~4,800~~the number of units of service as defined in a plan of care year and must have a prior authorization.

G. Restrictions

1. Beneficiaries receiving day habilitation services may also receive ~~prevocational or individual supported employment~~other services, ~~but these services cannot be provided during~~ on the same ~~time of the day and cannot total more than five hours combined. Group supported employment services cannot be provided on~~ but not at the same time of the day ~~but can be utilized on a different service day.~~

2. All virtual delivery of day habilitation services must be on an approved ~~by the LGE or the OCDD state office~~plan of care.

H. ~~Choice of service, which includes the staff ratio, must be documented on the plan of care~~Repealed.

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, Office of the Secretary, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 32:1605 (September 2006), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 40:2585 (December 2014), amended by Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 48:1576 (June 2022), LR 50:

§5705. Prevocational Services

A. Prevocational services are individualized, person centered services that assist the beneficiaries in establishing their path to obtain individualized community employment. This service is time limited and targeted for people who have an interest in becoming employed in individual jobs in the community, but who may need additional skills, information, and experiences to determine their employment goal and ~~to~~ become

successfully employed. Beneficiaries receiving prevocational services may choose to leave this service at any time or pursue employment opportunities at any time. Career planning must be a major component of prevocational services and should include activities focused on beneficiaries becoming employed to their highest ability.

B. Prevocational services is the overarching service and may be delivered in a combination of these ~~three~~two service types:

1. onsite prevocational; and
2. community career planning; ~~and.~~

NOTE: Prevocational services may be delivered virtually.

3. ~~virtual prevocational~~Repealed.

C. - D. ...

E. Prevocational services may also include assistance in personal care with activities of daily living. ~~Choice of this service and staff ratio needed to support the beneficiary must be documented on the plan of care.~~

F. ~~All transportation costs are included in the reimbursement~~ Transportation is a separate billable component for prevocational services. ~~The beneficiary~~ A prevocational service must be billed on ~~present to receive this service. If a beneficiary needs transportation, the provider must physically provide, arrange, or pay for appropriate transport to and from a~~

~~central location that is convenient for the beneficiary and agreed upon by the team. The beneficiary's~~ same day that transportation ~~needs and this central location shall be documented in the plan of care~~ is billed. Transportation cannot be billed if the prevocational service is delivered virtually.

G. Service Limitations. Services shall not exceed ~~4,800~~ the number of units of service as defined in a plan of care year and must have a prior authorization.

H. Restrictions

1. Beneficiaries receiving prevocational services may also receive ~~day habilitation or individualized supported employment~~ other services, ~~but these services cannot be provided during the same time of the day and cannot total more than five hours combined in the same service day. Group supported employment services cannot be provided on the same day but can~~ cannot be ~~utilized on a different service~~ provided during the same time of the day.

2. All virtual prevocational services must be included on the approved ~~by the IGE or the OCDD state office~~ plan of care.

I. Prevocational services are not available to individuals who are eligible to participate in programs that are available and funded under section 110 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or sections 602 (16) or (17) of the Individuals with

Disabilities Education Act [20 U.S.C. 1401 (26 and 29)], as amended, and those covered under the state plan, if applicable.

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, Office of the Secretary, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 32:1605 (September 2006), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 40:2585 (December 2014), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 48:1577 (June 2022), LR 50:

§5707. Respite

A. Respite care is a service provided on a short-term basis to a beneficiary who is unable to care for himself/herself ~~because of~~due to the absence or need for relief of those unpaid persons normally providing care for the beneficiary.

B. Respite may be provided in a licensed respite care facility that is determined to be appropriate by the beneficiary^r or other responsible party, or may be provided in the beneficiary's home or private place of residence.

C. - D. ...

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, Office of the Secretary, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 32:1606 (September 2006), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 40:2586 (December 2014), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 48:1577 (June 2022), LR 50:

§5709. Habilitation

A. Habilitation offers services designed to assist the beneficiary in acquiring, retaining, and improving the self-help, socialization, and adaptive skills necessary to reside successfully in home and community settings.

B. Habilitation is provided in the home or community, includes necessary transportation, and is included on the plan of care as determined to be appropriate.

C. Habilitation services may include, but are not limited to:

1. ...
2. travel training activities in the community that promote community independence, to include but not limited to,

place of individual employment, church, or other community activity. This does not include group supported employment, day habilitation, or prevocational sites.

D. - E. ...

F. Beneficiaries receiving habilitation may use this service in conjunction with other supports waiver services, as long as other services are not provided during the same period in a day.

NOTE: Beneficiaries who are age 18 through 21 may also receive ~~these~~ available services as outlined on their plan of care through the Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program, if applicable. Beneficiaries who are age 21 and older may receive available services as outlined on their plan of care through the Long-Term Personal Care Services (LT-PCS) Program, if applicable.

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, Office of the Secretary, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 32:1606 (September 2006), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 40:2586 (December 2014), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing

and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 48:1577 (June 2022), LR 50:

§5713. Personal Emergency Response System

A. A personal emergency response system (PERS) is an electronic device connected to the beneficiary's phone which enables a beneficiary to secure help in the community. The system is programmed to signal a response center staffed by trained professionals ~~once~~when a "help" button is activated.

B. ...

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, Office of the Secretary, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 32:1607 (September 2006), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 40:2587 (December 2014), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 48:1578 (June 2022), LR 50:

§5715. Support Coordination

A. Support coordination is a service that will assist beneficiaries in gaining access to all of their necessary services, as well as medical, social, educational, and other

services, regardless of the funding source for the services. Support coordinators shall be responsible for on-going monitoring of the provision of services included in the beneficiary's approved plan of care.

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, Office of the Secretary, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 34:662 (April 2008), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 40:2587 (December 2014), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 48:1578 (June 2022), LR 50:

§5717. Housing Stabilization Transition Services

A. Housing stabilization transition services enable beneficiaries who are transitioning into a permanent supportive housing unit, including those transitioning from institutions, to secure their own housing. The service is provided while the beneficiary is in an institution and preparing to exit the institution using the waiver. The service includes the following components:

1. conducting a housing assessment to identify the beneficiary's preferences related to housing (i.e., type, location, living alone or with someone else, need for accommodations~~-needed~~, and other important preferences), and his/her needs for support to maintain housing, including:

A.1.a. - C.1. ...

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 for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 40:81 (January 2014), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 48:1578 (June 2022), LR 50:

§5721. Dental Services

A. - A.10. ...

B. Dental Service Exclusions

1. ...

2. Non-covered services include but are not limited to the following:

a. - e. ...

f. routine post-operative services - these services are covered as part of the fee for initial treatment provided;

B.2.g. - C. ...

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, Bureau of Health Services Financing and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 48:1579 (June 2022), LR 50:

§5723. Community Life Engagement Development

A. Community life engagement development (CLED) facilitates the development of opportunities to assist beneficiaries in becoming involved in the community. The purpose of CLED is to find the opportunities that encourage and foster the development of meaningful relationships in the community reflecting the beneficiary's choices and values. Objectives outlined in the comprehensive plan of care will afford opportunities to increase community inclusion, participation in leisure/recreational activities, and encourage participation in volunteer and civic activities. To utilize this service, the beneficiary may or may not be present. CLED services may be performed by a staff person for up to three waiver beneficiaries who have a common provider agency for day services and supports. Rates shall be adjusted accordingly.

B. Transportation costs are included in the reimbursement for CLED services.

C. Service Limitations. Services shall not exceed the number of units as defined in the beneficiary's plan of care and must have a prior authorization.

D. Provider Qualifications. Providers must be licensed by the Department of Health as a home and community-based services provider and must meet the module specific requirements for the service being provided.

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, Bureau of Health Services Financing and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 50:

§5725. Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies

A. Incontinence briefs and supplies are available for a beneficiary, 21 years or older, who has a physician's order and requires the use of incontinence briefs and supplies.

B. Service Restrictions

1. This service is for those who are 21 years of age or older.

2. This service requires a physician's order.

C. Service Limitations

1. The cost cannot exceed \$2,500 in a single plan of care year.

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, Bureau of Health Services Financing and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 50:

Chapter 59. Provider Participation

§5901. General Provisions

A. ...

B. If the transportation component for supported employment, day habilitation, and/or prevocational services is provided ~~as part of a service, by~~ the provider, the provider must have insurance coverage ~~on any vehicles used in transporting a beneficiary~~ that meets current home and community-based services providers licensing standards on any vehicles used in transporting a beneficiary.

C. In addition to meeting the requirements cited in this §5901.A and B, providers must meet the following requirements for the provision of designated services.

1. - 7. ...

8. Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies.
Providers of this service must be enrolled to participate in the Medicaid Program as a provider of assistive technology, specialized medical equipment, and supplies.

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, Office of the Secretary, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 32:1607 (September 2006), LR 34:662 (April 2008), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 40:2587 (December 2014), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 43:2532 (December 2017), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 43:2532 (December 2017), LR 48:1579 (June 2022), LR 50:

§5903. Electronic Visit Verification

A. ...

B. Reimbursement shall only be made to providers with use of the EVV system. The services that require use of the EVV system include the following: in home respite, center-based respite, habilitation, day habilitation, prevocational services, and supported employment services.

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 for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 41:1288 (July 2015), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 48:1579 (June 2022), LR 50:

Chapter 61. Reimbursement

§6101. Unit of Reimbursement

A. The reimbursement for all services will be paid on a per claim basis. The reimbursement rate covers both service provision and administration. Services which utilize a prospective flat rate of ~~one-quarter~~one-quarter hour (15 minutes) will not be paid for the provision of less than ~~one quarter~~one-quarter hour of service.

B. Supported Employment Services. Reimbursement shall be a prospective flat rate for each approved unit of service provided to the beneficiary. A standard unit of service in both individual and group ~~job assessment, discovery and development~~supported employment services is one-quarter hour (15 minutes). A standard unit ~~of service infor~~ individual ~~initial job support, job retention~~ongoing follow along and ~~follow along is one-quarter hour (15 minutes). A standard unit of service in group initial job support, job retention and follow along~~assessment is ~~one hour or more per day~~a fee for service rate.

C. - J. ...

K. Community Life Engagement Development. Reimbursement shall be a prospective flat rate for each approved unit of service provided to the beneficiary. One-quarter hour (15 minutes) is the standard unit of service.

L. Transportation. Reimbursement shall be a prospective flat rate for each approved unit of service provided to the beneficiary. A standard unit is a daily rate.

M. Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies. Reimbursement shall be a prospective flat rate for each approved unit of service provided to the beneficiary.

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, Office of the Secretary, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 32:1607 (September 2006), amended LR 34:662 (April 2008), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 36:2281 (October 2010), LR 37:2158 (July 2011), LR 39:1050 (April 2013), LR 40:82 (January 2014), LR 40:2587 (December 2014), LR 42:900 (June 2016), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 48:43 (January 2022), amended by

the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 48:43 (January 2022), LR 48:1579 (June 2022), LR 49:1072 (June 2023), LR 50:

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 a positive impact on family functioning, stability and autonomy as described in R.S. 49:972, as it may help ease the financial burden on the family budget by providing coverage for transportation and incontinence supplies.

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 a positive impact on child, individual, or family poverty in relation to individual or community asset development as described in R.S. 49:973, as it may help ease the financial

burden on the family budget by providing coverage for transportation and incontinence supplies.

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 may have a positive impact on small businesses, since it provides reimbursement for new services added to the Supports Waiver.

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 or qualifications required to provide the same level of service, but may reduce the total direct or indirect cost to the provider to provide the same level of service, and may enhance the provider's ability to provide the same level of service as described in HCR 170 since it provides reimbursement for new services added to the Supports Waiver.

Public Comments

Interested persons may submit written comments to Kimberly Sullivan, JD, Bureau of Health Services Financing, P.O. Box 91030, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9030. Ms. Sullivan, JD is

responsible for responding to inquiries regarding this proposed Rule. The deadline for submitting written comments is at 4:30 p.m. on November 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 November 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 November 28, 2023 in Room 118 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 November 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