



What is HCBS News

First, what is HCBS?

Home and Community Based Services is a common name for Medicaid Waiver Services. These services are provided to support people living in their communities.



What is the HCBS News Flash?

The HCBS News Flash is a bulletin to provide new or exciting information on the Medicaid Waiver Program for People with Developmental Disabilities and/or Mental Retardation (DD/MR). A new issue will be available every three months.

Why HCBS News Flash?

Participants and family members expressed an interest in hearing more about the HCBS program. In addition to more community outreach activities, the Developmental Disabilities Division hopes this will be another useful way to share information.

Hot Topics!

Personal Assistance/ Habilitation (PAB):

- ◆ Is a combination of Personal Assistance and Habilitation services.
- ◆ Provides supports to do or learn how to accomplish activities.
- ◆ Includes associated costs when provided through an agency. These are for fees or costs for community activities or resources related to a goal. Associated costs should be discussed at the ISP meeting and must be agreed upon by the circle members and the provider agency. Each provider agency may have a different policy. Check with your provider agency for their policy.

Residential Habilitation (RESHAB):

- ◆ Is a service provided in a certified or licensed home for individuals who needs supports on a daily basis.
- ◆ Is in addition to room, board and supervision covered by SSI and SSP, commonly referred to as Level of Care or domiciliary care payment.
- ◆ Supports individuals to be more independent in daily life. It can include physical assistance with activities of daily living such as eating, dressing, and bathing, exercising, and general health care and household tasks.
- ◆ Includes levels of support to meet the needs of the participant.

Consumer Direction

- ◆ Consumer direction is an option for participants in the DD/MR HCBS Program. Participants may choose to hire, train, supervise, and fire, when necessary, their direct support worker(s). The participant is the employer.
- ◆ Chore, PAB Level 1 and 2, and Respite services may be Consumer Directed. See the Consumer Directed Services Brochure or contact your case manager for more information.
- ◆ Participants may direct some or all of these services or use a combination of agency and Consumer Directed services.

What services are available?

- ◆ Chore*
- ◆ Personal Assistance/ Habilitation (PAB)*
- ◆ Respite*
- ◆ Residential Habilitation (RESHAB)
- ◆ Supported Employment
- ◆ Skilled Nursing
- ◆ Transportation
- ◆ Adult Day Health
- ◆ DD/MR Emergency Services (Respite, Outreach, and Shelter)
- ◆ Training and Consultation
- ◆ Assistive Technology
- ◆ Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies
- ◆ Environmental Accessibility Adaptations
- ◆ Vehicular Modifications
- ◆ Personal Emergency Response Systems

* Can be Consumer Directed

Star Stories



David is an active man who likes walking outside, playing with animals, and going to dances and movies. People who meet David enjoy his company and sense of humor. He takes pride in dressing nicely and is often the best dressed person around. He currently lives with Martin Obaldo in a licensed care home. David is very comfortable there. He chooses what to do at home including watching his favorite T.V. shows, having his mom and sister over, and playing music on his keyboard.

Life wasn't always this smooth for David. Many people didn't know he had the ability and desire to accomplish many things in his life. According to his mom, one medical person said, "He will never be able to do anything. Put him in an institution and forget about him." As an adult, he had lived in other care homes that just didn't fit David's needs. He stopped talking and sharing his feelings. Without a lot of activities, David became bored and sometimes angry. Eventually, he needed to be admitted to the Crisis Shelter when his behavior became erratic, possibly related to medication side effects or health issues.

David's circle, his mom, sister, and case manager were very concerned about him. In his previous care home, his family felt that he was unhappy and not intellectually stimulated. Yet, they felt it was important to find him a place to live where he felt comfortable and supported to do the things that were important to him. While David was in the Crisis Shelter, the circle got together and visited different homes. They kept looking until they found one that seemed right for David and made sure that it was with a person he liked.

Over time, David's doctor changed his medication to decrease the negative side effects, like making him sleepy. His mom said, "He is not like a zombie anymore."

The circle also helped David choose a HCBS agency to receive Adult Day Health and Personal Assistance services from. They tried a few agencies until they found a worker that David liked.

His mom and sister are happy for him and see him more often. They have all gotten closer through these experiences. David calls them from his house to tell them how he is doing. His mom was excited to share his story if it can help any HCBS participant, family member, or circle member know that people have choices about their services. Circle members should be part of helping people build a life based on what is important to them, their needs, and their dreams.

His life has improved with the support of everyone in his circle. His mom, sister, case manager, caregiver, doctor, and agency staff all worked together to support David. He recently accomplished his own goal to vacation in Las Vegas with the money he earned doing different jobs with the agency and by saving gift money and support from his family.

Next Issue

The Developmental Disabilities Division will be looking for family members to participate in our quality assurance activities. We are looking for committee members and monitors to join us in developing policies and practices and to review services provided through the HCBS Medicaid Waiver Program. Check the next issue for more information.



Question Corner



Let us know what you would like featured in our next . issues. The topics may cover services, provider agencies, or other HCBS topics. Send comments to: Theresa Doyle 3627 Kilauea Ave. Room 109 Honolulu, HI 96816



We provide access to our activities without regard to race, color, national origin (including language), age, sex, religion, or disability. Write or call our Affirmative Action Officer at P.O. Box 3378, Honolulu, HI 96801-3378 or at (808) 586-4616 (voice) within 180 days of a problem.

