



Message from our CEO

Results of the DHS public comment period for Statewide Transition Plan

During the month of February, NJ Department of Human Services held a 30 day public comment period to their Statewide Transition Plan for compliance with the CMS Home and Community Based Services final rule. More than 1,000 responses came from stakeholders throughout NJ sharing concerns regarding the plan, including the rule that consumers must spend 75% of their day out in the community as opposed to their program setting. The revised plan was due March 17, but due to the overwhelming number of comments to be reviewed, NJ was given a 30 day extension. On April 17, NJ DHS released their revised plan and accompanying letter: http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/info/hcbs_trans.html
[DHS Final Transition Plan 4-17 Announcement](#)

Our collective voices were heard. We are pleased to share two changes regarding day services:

1. The 75% requirement has been removed, replaced with an emphasis on a "majority" of time.
2. Community integrated activities may now be conducted inside and/or outside of the day facility.

Thank you to all who provided comments in support of individual choice and person-centered services!



Two important notes for our current individuals as we move forward through the enrollment process to the Medicaid based system of services:

1. During your NJ Comprehensive Assessment Tool (NJ CAT) evaluation process, please ensure all needs are captured so that appropriate tier ratings are assigned and appropriate services may be delivered.
2. As individual program services are identified, anyone seeking employment, work-related activities or volunteer activities must have **Prevocational and/or Supported Employment units of service approved** through their Individualized Service Plan. Anyone seeking to participate in community integrated activities must have **Community Inclusion** units of service approved as well.

Questions may be directed to Michelle Savino, Director of Program Services, at 908-689-1118 or msavino@abilitiesnw.com



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