

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Louisiana Department of Health  
Bureau of Health Services Financing and  
Office of Behavioral Health**

**Substance Use Disorder Waiver**

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), Bureau of Health Services Financing, in collaboration with the Office of Behavioral Health, currently utilize institutions for mental disease (IMDs) as an alternative setting to inpatient general hospitals for individuals, ages 21-64, who are in need of substance use disorder (SUD) residential treatment in the Healthy Louisiana Medicaid Managed Care Program. Recently released federal Medicaid managed care regulations impose new limitations and costs on the Department's use of IMDs as alternative settings for State Plan behavioral health services.

As a result of the aforementioned federal regulations, the Department hereby gives public notice of its intent to submit a request to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to implement a Section 1115 Medicaid Demonstration Waiver in order to continue using IMDs as an alternative setting to inpatient general hospitals for individuals, ages 21-64, who are in need of SUD residential treatment and enrolled in the Healthy Louisiana Program. Implementation of this Section 1115 Medicaid Demonstration Waiver is contingent upon CMS approval.

The SUD Waiver will allow the following:

- Diversion of individuals from costly behavioral health admissions at general hospitals to more appropriate and cost-effective behavioral health treatment facilities; and
- Provision of medically necessary services in the most appropriate setting for the member, regardless of the length of stay.

In compliance with CMS regulations, the Department is posting the Section 1115 Medicaid Demonstration Waiver Application for public comment from June 7, 2017 through July 7, 2017. CMS regulations require the Louisiana Department of Health to actively engage the public and give program participants, advocates, providers and other community stakeholders the opportunity to provide input regarding waiver applications prior to the submission of final versions to CMS.

The Section 1115 SUD Waiver Application shall be posted to the LDH Office of Behavioral Health website and may be accessed at the following address:

<http://www.ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/subhome/18>. A hard copy of the waiver application shall be made available upon request to the Department by email to [MedicaidPolicy@la.gov](mailto:MedicaidPolicy@la.gov), or by calling (225) 342-6843.

Interested persons may submit written comments to Jen Steele, Bureau of Health Services Financing, P.O. Box 91030, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9030, or by email to MedicaidPolicy@la.gov. Ms. Steele is responsible for responding to inquiries regarding this public notice.

The Department will conduct two public hearings in conjunction with this waiver application:

(1) June 16, 2017 at 10:30 a.m., at Central Louisiana State Hospital (CLSH) Education Building, 242 West Shamrock Street, Pineville, LA 71360.

(2) June 22, 2017 at 3 p.m., at Louisiana Department of Health, Bienville Building, Room 118, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. This hearing will be broadcast over the web and via teleconference. Teleconference: 1-877-336-1828, then access code 1617132#.

Web: <http://www.ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/subhome/18>.

At these hearings all interested persons will be afforded an opportunity to submit data, views or arguments either orally or in writing. The deadline for receipt of all written comments is Friday, July 7, 2017 by 4:30 p.m.

Rebekah E. Gee MD, MPH

Secretary