

NOTICE OF INTENT

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

Home and Community-Based Services Waivers  
Children's Choice Waiver  
Unit of Reimbursement  
(LAC 50:XXI.12101)

The Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities propose to amend LAC 50:XXI.12101 under 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 and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities amended the provisions governing the Children's Choice Waiver in order to adopt requirements mandating that providers utilize the electronic verification system designated by the department for automated scheduling, time and attendance tracking and billing for certain home and community-based services (*Louisiana Register*, Volume 41, Number 7).

Act 299 of the 2011 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature directed the department to implement certain policy and licensing

provisions governing home and community-based services (HCBS) and mandated cost reporting for HCBS providers. In compliance with Act 299, the department has determined that it is necessary to amend the provisions governing the Children's Choice Waiver in order to further clarify the reimbursement methodology, remove language that provides historical information pertaining to the rate reimbursement and revise the terminology associated with Children's Choice Waiver reimbursements.

## **Title 50**

### **PUBLIC HEALTH—MEDICAL ASSISTANCE**

#### **Part XXI. Home and Community-Based Services Waivers**

##### **Subpart 9. Children's Choice**

#### **Chapter 121. Reimbursement**

##### **§12101. Unit of Reimbursement**

A. ...

B. Direct service providers shall be reimbursed according to the following unit of reimbursement approach. Actual rates will be published in the Children's Choice Waiver provider manual, and will be subsequently amended by direct notification to the affected providers. For services provided by a subcontractor agency, the enrolled direct service provider shall coordinate and reimburse the subcontractor according to the terms of the contract and retain the administrative costs.

1. Family support, crisis support, center-based respite,

aquatic therapy, art therapy, music therapy, sensory integration and hippotherapy/therapeutic horseback riding services shall be reimbursed at a flat rate per 15-minute unit of service and reimbursement shall not be made for less than 15-minute (one quarter-hour) of service. This covers both service provision and administrative costs.

a. Up to two participants may choose to share family support services if they share a common provider of this service.

b. Up to two participants may choose to share crisis support services if they share a common provider of this service.

c. There is a separate reimbursement rate when these services are shared.

2. - 3. ...

4. Direct Support Professionals Wages

a. The minimum hourly rate paid to providers for full-time equivalent (FTE) direct support professionals shall be the federal minimum wage in effect at the time.

B.4.b. - D.1.c. 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, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 28:1987 (September 2002), LR 33:1872 (September 2007),

amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 34:250 (February 2008), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 36:324 (February 2010), LR 36:2280 (October 2010), LR 37:2157 (July 2011), LR 39:2504 (September 2013), LR 40:68 (January 2014), LR 41:128 (January 2015), LR 42:

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.

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 and autonomy as described in R.S. 49:972.

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.

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, no direct or indirect cost to the provider to provide the same level of service, and will have no impact on the provider's ability to provide the same level of service as described in HCR 170.

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 proposed Rule. A public hearing on this proposed Rule is scheduled for Thursday, April 28, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 118, Bienville Building, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA. At that time 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 4:30 p.m. on the next business day following the public hearing.

Rebekah E. Gee MD, MPH

Secretary

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT  
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

Person  
Preparing  
Statement: Cedric E. Clark  
Phone: 342-2339

Dept.: Health and Hospitals  
Office: Bureau of Health Services  
Financing

Return  
Address: P.O. Box 91030  
Baton Rouge, LA

Rule Title: Home and Community-Based  
Services Waivers  
Children's Choice Waiver  
Unit of Reimbursement

Date Rule Takes Effect: June 20, 2016

SUMMARY

In accordance with Section 953 of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes, there is hereby submitted a fiscal and economic impact statement on the rule proposed for adoption, repeal or amendment. The following summary statements, based on the attached worksheets, will be published in the Louisiana Register with the proposed agency rule.

I. ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION COSTS (SAVINGS) TO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (SUMMARY)

*It is anticipated that implementation of this proposed rule will have no programmatic fiscal impact to the state other than the cost of promulgation for FY 15-16. It is anticipated that \$540 (\$270 SGF and \$270 FED) will be expended in FY 15-16 for the state's administrative expense for promulgation of this proposed rule and the final rule.*

II. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

*It is anticipated that the implementation of this proposed Rule will not affect revenue collections other than the federal share of the promulgation costs for FY 15-16. It is anticipated that \$270 will be collected in FY 15-16 for the federal share of the expense for promulgation of this proposed rule and the final rule.*

III. ESTIMATED COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS OR NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS (Summary)

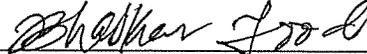
*This proposed Rule amends the provisions governing the Children's Choice Waiver in order to clarify the reimbursement methodology, remove language that provides historical information pertaining to rate reimbursement and revise terminology associated with Children's Choice Waiver reimbursements. The proposed revisions are a policy clarification only and will not impact waiver reimbursement rates or the amount expended for waiver services. It is anticipated that implementation of this proposed rule will not have economic costs or benefits to Children's Choice Waiver service providers for FY 15-16, FY 16-17 and FY 17-18.*

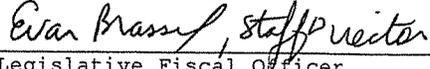
IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)

*This rule has no known effect on competition and employment.*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Agency Head  
or Designee

Jen Steele,  
Interim Medicaid Director  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Typed name and Title of  
Agency Head or Designee

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DHH/BHSF Budget Head

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Legislative Fiscal Officer  
or Designee

3/10/16  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Signature

03/10/16  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Signature

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT  
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

The following information is required in order to assist the Legislative Fiscal Office in its review of the fiscal and economic impact statement and to assist the appropriate legislative oversight subcommittee in its deliberations on the proposed rule.

- A. Provide a brief summary of the content of the rule (if proposed for adoption or repeal) or a brief summary of the change in the rule (if proposed for amendment). Attach a copy of the notice of intent and a copy of the rule proposed for initial adoption or repeal (or, in the case of a rule change, copies of both the current and proposed rules with amended portions indicated).

*This proposed Rule amends the provisions governing the Children's Choice Waiver in order to clarify the reimbursement methodology, remove language that provides historical information pertaining to rate reimbursement and revise the terminology associated with Children's Choice Waiver reimbursements.*

- B. Summarize the circumstances that require this action. If the action is required by federal regulations, attach a copy of the applicable regulation.

*The Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities amended the provisions governing the Children's Choice Waiver in order to adopt requirements mandating that providers utilize the electronic verification system designated by the department for automated scheduling, time and attendance tracking and billing for certain home and community-based services (Louisiana Register, Volume 41, Number 7).*

*Act 299 of the 2011 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature directed the department to implement certain policy and licensing provisions governing home and community-based services (HCBS) and mandated cost reporting for HCBS providers. In compliance with Act 299, the department has determined that it is necessary to amend the provisions governing the Children's Choice Waiver in order to further clarify the reimbursement methodology, remove language that provides historical information pertaining to rate reimbursement and revise the terminology associated with Children's Choice Waiver reimbursements.*

- C. Compliance with Act 11 of the 1986 First Extraordinary Session

- (1) Will the proposed rule change result in any increase in the expenditure of funds? If so, specify amount and source of funding.

*No. It is anticipated that implementation of this proposed rule will have no programmatic fiscal impact to the state other than the cost of promulgation for FY 15-16. It is anticipated that \$540 will be expended in FY 15-16 for the state's administrative expense for promulgation of this proposed rule and the final rule.*

- (2) If the answer to (1) above is yes, has the Legislature specifically appropriated the funds necessary for the associated expenditure increase?

- (a) \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, attach documentation.  
(b) \_\_\_\_\_ If no, provide justification as to why this rule change should be published at this time.

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT  
WORKSHEET

I. A. COST OR SAVINGS TO STATE AGENCIES RESULTING FROM THE ACTION PROPOSED

1. What is the anticipated increase or (decrease) in cost to implement the proposed action?

COST	FY 15-16	FY 16-17	FY 17-18
PERSONAL SERVICES			
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$540	\$0	\$0
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES			
OTHER CHARGES			
REPAIR & CONSTR.			
POSITIONS (#)			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$540</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

2. Provide a narrative explanation of the costs or savings shown in "A.1.", including the increase or reduction in workload or additional paperwork (number of new forms, additional documentation, etc.) anticipated as a result of the implementation of the proposed action. Describe all data, assumptions, and methods used in calculating these costs.

*In FY 15-16, \$540 will be spent for the state's administrative expense for promulgation of this proposed rule and the final rule.*

3. Sources of funding for implementing the proposed rule or rule change.

Source	FY 15-16	FY 16-17	FY 17-18
STATE GENERAL FUND	\$270	\$0	\$0
SELF-GENERATED			
FEDERAL FUND	\$270	\$0	\$0
OTHER (Specify)			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$540</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

4. Does your agency currently have sufficient funds to implement the proposed action? If not, how and when do you anticipate obtaining such funds?

*Yes, sufficient funds are available to implement this rule.*

B. COST OR SAVINGS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS RESULTING FROM THIS PROPOSED ACTION.

1. Provide an estimate of the anticipated impact of the proposed action on local governmental units, including adjustment in workload and paperwork requirements. Describe all data, assumptions and methods used in calculating this impact.

*This proposed rule has no known impact on local governmental units.*

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT  
WORKSHEET

2. Indicate the sources of funding of the local governmental unit that will be affected by these costs or savings.

*There is no known impact on the sources of local governmental unit funding.*

II. EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS

- A. What increase or (decrease) in revenues can be expected from the proposed action?

REVENUE INCREASE/DECREASE	FY 15-16	FY 16-17	FY 17-18
STATE GENERAL FUND			
AGENCY SELF-GENERATED			
RESTRICTED FUNDS*			
FEDERAL FUNDS	\$270	\$0	\$0
LOCAL FUNDS			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$270</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

*\*Specify the particular fund being impacted*

- B. Provide a narrative explanation of each increase or decrease in revenue shown in "A". Describe all data, assumptions, and methods used in calculating these increases or decreases.

*In FY 15-16, \$270 will be collected for the federal share of the administrative expense for promulgation of this proposed rule and the final rule.*

III. COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS OR NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS

- A. What persons or non-governmental groups would be directly affected by the proposed action? For each, provide an estimate and a narrative description of any effects on costs, including workload adjustments and additional paperwork (number of new forms, additional documentation, etc.)

*This proposed Rule amends the provisions governing the Children's Choice Waiver in order to clarify the reimbursement methodology, remove language that provides historical information pertaining to rate reimbursement and revise the terminology associated with Children's Choice Waiver reimbursements.*

- B. Also, provide an estimate of any revenue impact resulting from this rule or rule change to these groups.

*It is anticipated that implementation of this proposed rule will not have economic costs or benefits to Children's Choice Waiver service providers for FY 15-16, FY 16-17 and FY 17-18.*

IV. EFFECTS ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT

Identify and provide estimates of the impact of the proposed action on competition and employment in the public and private sectors. Include a summary of any data, assumptions and methods used in making these estimates.

*This rule has no known effect on competition and employment.*