

NJ FamilyCare Medical Assistance Advisory Council Meeting

July 22, 2021

Agenda

- Welcome and call to order – Dr. Deborah Spitalnik
- Approval of Minutes – MAAC Members
- Updates from the NJ Department of Human Services – Acting Commissioner Sarah Adelman
- NJ FamilyCare Updates – Greg Woods, Heidi Smith
 - Enrollment Trend
 - Redetermination Strategy for the Conclusion of the Federal Public Health Emergency
- Policy Implementation – Jennifer Jacobs, Greg Woods
 - Cover All Kids
 - American Rescue Plan Enhanced Federal Match for Home and Community Based Services
 - 1115 Comprehensive Medicaid Waiver Demonstration Renewal
- Discussion and Planning for the Next Meetings – Dr. Deborah Spitalnik



NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FY22 State Budget Overview

Human Services Highlights

Moving New Jersey Forward

BUILDING A HEALTHIER NEW JERSEY

- ✓ **EXPAND FUNDING FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE**
- ✓ **ENSURE MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR ONE FULL YEAR AFTER DELIVERING A BABY**
- ✓ **ENSURE EVERY CHILD HAS HEALTH CARE**
- ✓ **INCREASE FUNDING FOR RESIDENTIAL PROVIDERS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**
- ✓ **MAKE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS MORE AFFORDABLE FOR SENIORS BY EXPANDING THE PHARMACEUTICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE AGED AND DISABLED PROGRAM**

Protecting Older Adults



Raises the income limits for the **PAAD and Senior Gold programs by \$10,000 each**



DHS' Division of Aging Services is launching the **Age Friendly New Jersey initiative**, in partnership with AARP, to help support communities become accessible and inclusive places to live at any age



Maintains **the 10 percent rate increase for Medicaid nursing facilities** with an investment of \$87 million in state dollars for a total of \$174 million after federal matching

Tax Relief

FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET

TAX RELIEF

- **Over 760,000 middle-class New Jersey families will receive up to a \$500 tax rebate this summer**
- **Homestead Benefit payments will be updated to be based on 2017 property tax information**
- **Eligibility for the Earned Income Tax Credit will expand to residents 65 years and older without dependents, and to those as young as 18 years**
- **Veterans property tax deduction will expand to peacetime veterans**
- **The annual income threshold for the pension and other retirement income exclusion will be raised**



GOVERNOR PHIL MURPHY

INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



DSP WAGES

The new budget builds on previous increases with about \$42 million in new funding to ensure Direct Support Professionals are paid above the state's increasing minimum wage and to raise wages of managers and other more senior members of the developmental disability frontline workforce to support retention and professional growth.

RESIDENTIAL PROVIDERS

Residential providers such as group homes have been required to provide additional daytime staffing hours. To support the required staffing level, the Department increased the residential daily rate by 20 percent, and the budget signed by Governor Murphy includes funding to maintain this enhanced residential staffing through December.

DAY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The budget includes nearly \$27.5 million to increase rates for day habilitation, career planning, community inclusion services, group prevocational training, and group supported employment. This will come to \$55 million with federal funding included.

Health Care



Health Care

A pregnant woman with dark hair is sitting on a wooden bench outdoors. She is wearing a light-colored, short-sleeved button-down shirt and a patterned skirt. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is slightly blurred, showing a sidewalk and some foliage. The entire image has a blue tint. Overlaid on the image is white text.

**COMBATting OUR MATERNAL
AND INFANT HEALTH CRISIS**

**\$8.5 MILLION TO EXPAND MEDICAID
COVERAGE FOR 365 DAYS POSTPARTUM**

NURTURE NJ

Health Care



Health Care

Regional Health Hubs

The budget increases state funding for the state's four regional health hubs to \$2.25 million, which will total \$4.5 million when federal funding is included.

Personal Care/Assisted Living/Adult Medical Day Care Services

Under the signed budget, the hourly rate for Medicaid personal care assistant services will increase to \$22 per hour, and the daily payment rates for assisted living facilities, comprehensive personal care home, and assisted living programs will be increased to \$87, \$77 and \$67 respectively. Meanwhile, the minimum daily payment rate for adult medical day care will increase to more than \$86.

Child Care



The budget adds more than \$60 million in additional child care funding, including for our child care subsidy program and for January 2022 minimum wage increases for child care workers.

The budget also features two pilot programs to build on the administration's ongoing investments in child care.

The first will use \$4.45 million to allow providers to make needed facility improvements to support their participation in Grow NJ Kids, the state's child care quality rating and improvement system.

The second appropriation of \$550,000 will allow for a pilot of shared services collaborations in Central and South Jersey to maximize coordination and increase efficiencies in child care delivery.

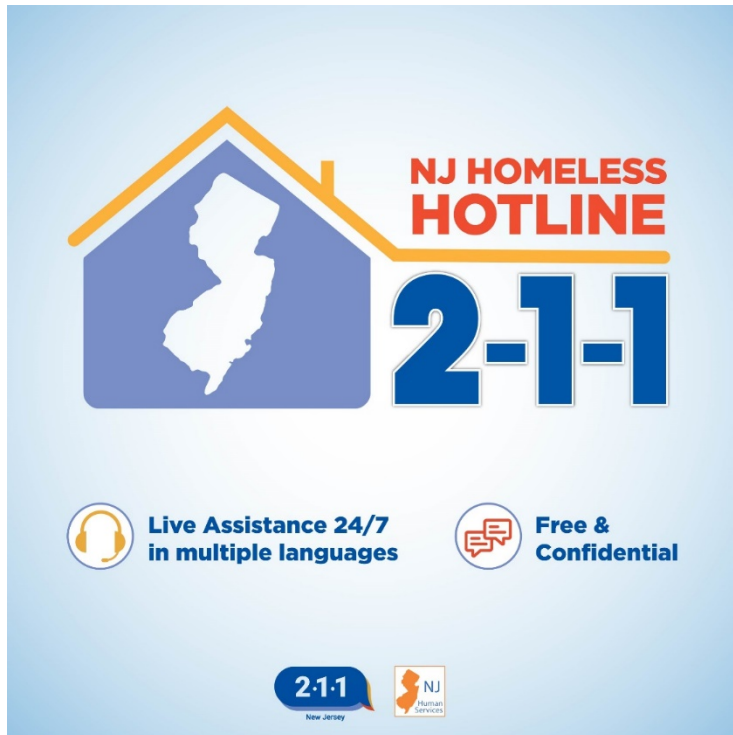
New Americans



The budget increases funding by \$2 million for removal defense for immigrants facing deportation and detention, bringing the program's total funding to \$8.2 million.

And it adds \$3 million in new funding for legal and case management services for immigrant children and youth living in New Jersey.

Housing



This budget continues the \$2.5 million for counties to help with Code Blue placements for at-risk individuals during cold weather events, along with ongoing funding of \$300,000 to continue to support our efforts to create safe and accessible homeless services environments for LGBTQ+ New Jerseyans.

It also includes \$9 million to increase per-diem shelter rates with the goal to help increase the wages of workers providing services directly to individuals experiencing homelessness.

Mental Health and Addiction Services

NJHopeline 1-855-654-6735

NJMentalHealthCares Helpline 1-866-202-HELP

**ACCESS American Sign Language and
Videophone Helpline 973-870-0677**

**HEAL NJ Healthcare Workers COVID
Hope & Healing Helpline 1-833-416-8773**

**RISE NJ First Responders COVID
Hope & Healing Helpline 1-833-237-4325**

**Assistance and Referrals to Addiction Treatment
1-844-ReachNJ**



Supportive Housing

Funding will increase for supportive housing rental subsidies for individuals with mental health conditions. This new funding will help individuals find affordable housing or remain in their current housing.

Psychiatrists

The budget includes funding for a psychiatric residency pipeline program to help address the shortage of psychiatrists in New Jersey, especially those serving low income individuals and those with complicated cases, including struggling with co-occurring substance use and mental health diagnoses.

Early Intervention Supports Services (EISS)

The budget includes an additional \$11 million in state funding for EISS, allowing Human Services to expand the program to all 21 counties from the current 11. The expansion also calls for pilot initiatives to enhance access to EISS services for individuals across the state.

Social Services



SEE IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR:



**FOOD
ASSISTANCE**



**CASH
ASSISTANCE**



**HEALTH
INSURANCE**



Social Justice

To support individuals in their re-entry and recovery, the budget eliminates a restriction that has created significant barriers to individuals convicted with drug distribution from not being able to access New Jersey's public assistance program for individuals in critical need of cash and emergency assistance benefits. This change gives more individuals the assistance and new start that they need.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

The budget increases cash assistance to TANF families by increasing the child support pass through payments for families with two or more children. It also provides a longer period – for a total of 6 months – for TANF households to meet program criteria without impacting cash assistance benefits for the child during this time, and invests \$610,000 to support case management for individuals and families receiving public assistance.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing

BUDGET INCREASES REIMBURSEMENT FOR HEARING AID PURCHASES



Human Services' Hearing Assistance Program has provided a \$100 reimbursement per calendar year to offset the purchase of a hearing aid.



Under the new budget, individuals can be **reimbursed up to \$1,000 for hearing aid costs**, \$500 per hearing aid, per calendar year.



Enhanced Services

The budget boosts funding to expand services for deaf and hard hearing New Jerseyans by \$500,000. Human Services' Division of Deaf and Hard of Hearing has been working to increase the division's capacity and reach to meet the needs of deaf and hard of hearing New Jerseyans, particularly during the pandemic. The budget includes additional resources to support communication access, equipment distribution, community education and training, and information and referral.

Hearing Aid Assistance

The budget also increases hearing aid reimbursements for older adults and individuals with disabilities from \$100 to up to \$1,000. This change will provide a meaningful reimbursement for people paying for hearing aids out of pocket. In addition, these investments make it possible to expand the division's Equipment Distribution Program by raising its income eligibility to 400% of the federal poverty level.

Centers for Independent Living

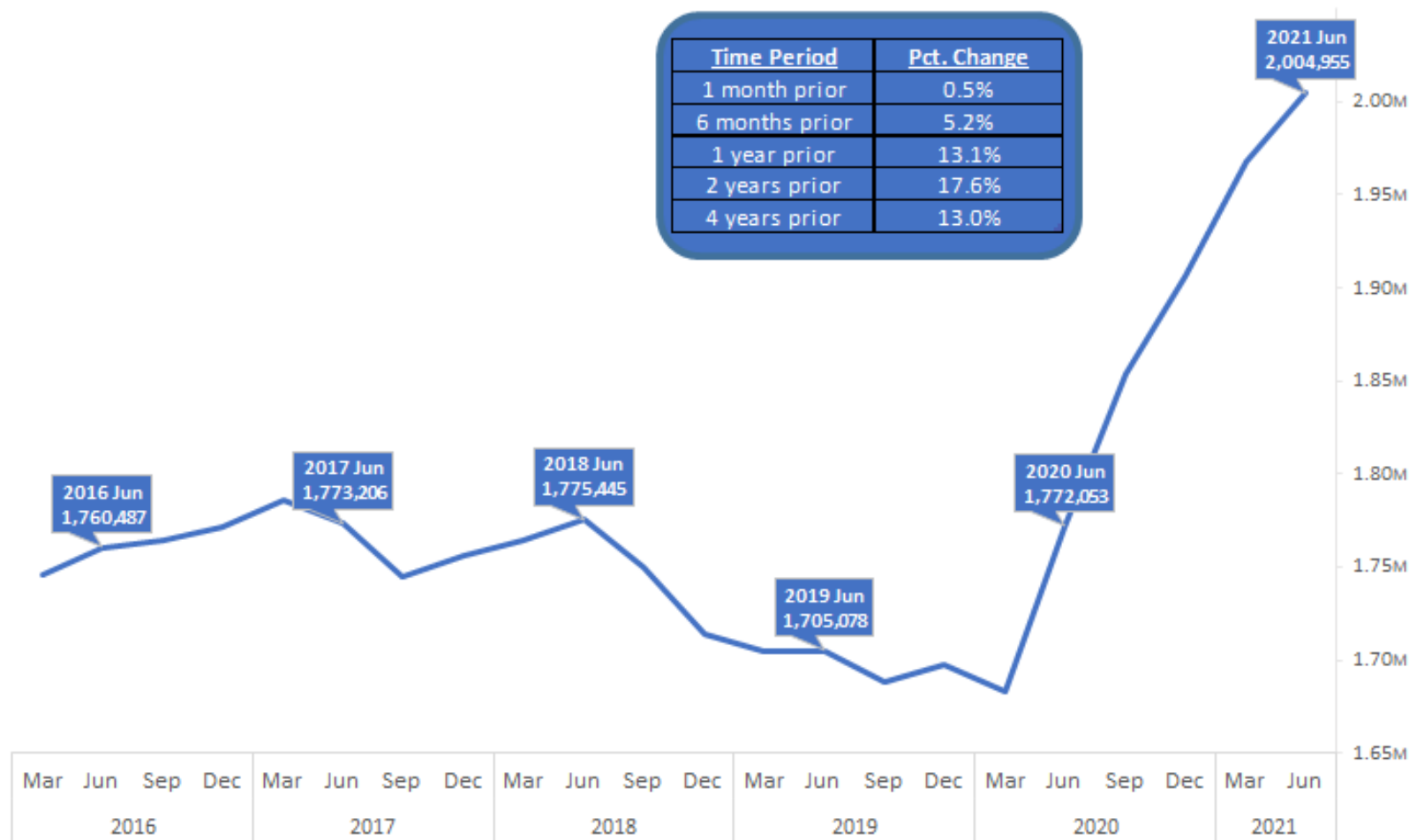


The budget increases to \$1.5 million the funding to support New Jersey's Centers for Independent Living as they continue to address the increased needs of individuals with disabilities.

Thank You

NJ Family Care Enrollment

Overall NJ FamilyCare Enrollment



Medicaid Enrollment Growth: National Comparison

- National Medicaid and CHIP enrollment grew from 70,626,835 in December 2019 to 81,046,488 in February 2021 (most recent month available).
 - Represents a 14.8% increase.
- New Jersey Medicaid and CHIP enrollment grew from 1,697,501 to 1,949,617 over the same period.
 - Represents a 14.9% increase.

Redetermination Strategy for the Conclusion of the Federal Public Health Emergency

Overall Redetermination Strategy for the Conclusion of the Federal Public Health Emergency

- What's the timeline for continuing eligibility due to the pandemic?
 - Eligibility for Medicaid members continues through the end of the federal PHE.
 - The estimated timeline that the federal PHE will end is December 2021.
- What is CMS saying about eligibility redetermination?
 - CMS has indicated that all redeterminations conducted within six months before the end of the PHE will be upheld.
 - We are anticipating additional guidance from CMS about processing timeframes at the end of the PHE.
- So what's happening right now?
 - Eligibility workers are conducting redeterminations and noting changes in eligibility.

Members determined to be ineligible during this time will receive a notice of the determination – this is important in case there was information they failed to submit.

The notice will clearly state that, regardless of this determination, they will maintain eligibility through the end of the PHE.

➡ This notice is being sent to prompt action by the member. ⬅

We want to help people understand that they may need to provide additional information for NJ FamilyCare eligibility or plan for moving to other options through GetCoveredNJ or other coverage when the PHE ends.

Overall Redetermination Strategy for the Conclusion of the Federal Public Health Emergency

- What will happen at the end of the PHE?
 - If a member was found eligible in the redetermination, their enrollment will continue seamlessly.
 - If a member was found ineligible (and notice previously sent did not yield additional information that led to eligibility), they will receive a final eligibility outcome notice containing Fair Hearing rights.
 - After the PHE ends, redetermination will return to normal. Of note, however, we have made important system improvements during this time (and a few more to come) which will streamline the process.
- What else is important to know?
 - Medicaid members must respond to the redetermination notice timely and notify NJ FamilyCare when they have a change in circumstance so that we have the most current information to use in their processing.
 - DMAHS will monitor redetermination timeliness to be sure we meet CMS requirements.

DDD-Focused Redetermination Strategy for the Conclusion of the Federal Public Health Emergency

- What's happening specifically for the DDD population?
 - DMAHS shares the list of DDD beneficiaries losing Medicaid eligibility through SSI with the DDD Care Coordinators for awareness and follow up with their clients, in order to support transition to other Medicaid eligibility categories. This will continue after the PHE.
 - DDD will be providing guidance to their stakeholders, Care Coordinators, and other staff ensuring everyone is aware redetermination packets are being distributed by the CWAs and must be completed timely.
 - DMAHS will provide DDD with a monthly report of all individuals found ineligible after their redetermination and that are receiving DDD services. These individuals will also continue receiving benefits through the end of the PHE. DDD will follow up with these consumers/authorized representatives to assist with eligibility issues or assistance in transitioning to the appropriate program.
 - When a DDD beneficiary is determined ineligible on the basis of income, the eligibility worker is expected to transfer the case to the Special Processing Units for CCP and Supports for waiver eligibility review.

Cover All Kids

Cover All Kids

- This initiative put forth by Governor Murphy includes \$20 million in the SFY22 State budget to guarantee health care coverage with comprehensive benefits for all New Jersey's children.
- Includes primary and specialist visits, dental, vision, mental health, and much more.
- Cover All Kids will be implemented in two phases, effective July 1, 2021.

“No child in New Jersey should be left without the support and security of health care coverage.

The proposed investment toward Cover All Kids in our budget continues the progress we've made toward advancing health care accessibility, while laying the foundation to ensure that more children are able to receive access to quality health care coverage that they deserve.”

Governor Phil Murphy

Cover All Kids Timeline

July 2021 – June 2022

- Reach ~53,000 children who are currently eligible and unenrolled
- Address barriers to coverage
 - Eliminate the 90-day waiting period for coverage to children newly enrolling into the Children Health's Insurance Program (CHIP)
 - Remove premiums families would pay for their children enrolled in CHIP
- Support connections to coverage
 - Develop targeted outreach efforts in partnership with community organizations to promote awareness and encourage coverage

Beginning July 2022

- Reach ~36,000 children who are ineligible due to income or immigration status
- In partnership with Get Covered NJ, offer subsidized coverage for children whose household incomes are currently over NJ FamilyCare eligibility (greater than \$94,075 for a family of four)
- Develop coverage options for children who do not meet “lawfully present” status.

American Rescue Plan Enhanced Federal Match and Reinvestment for Home and Community Based Services

American Rescue Plan: HCBS Reinvestment

Through the American Rescue Plan, Congress provided a 10% increase in the federal matching rate (aka FMAP) on Home and Community-Based Services.

Eligible HCBS expenditures from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022 are given a 10% increase in their federal match rate.



The resulting funding may be spent through March 31, 2024 on eligible Home and Community-Based Services.

Spending must “supplement not supplant” state dollars and must enhance, strengthen or expand HCBS.

HCBS Reinvestment: Stakeholder Process

Stakeholders and the general public played a crucial role in our efforts to craft this initial spending plan.

- For this initiative, several targeted small group calls were held, each focusing on a distinct subset of HCBS services. Over 50 organizations and individuals participated in these open discussions with DHS leadership.
- In addition, an open public listening session was held on June 4, 2021 following a posted public notice on the DMAHS website. Over 230 individuals attended the session where open comments were given to leadership representing the Governor's Office, the NJ Department of Human Services (NJ DHS) and the NJ Department of Children and Families (NJ DCF).
- Finally, an email inbox was provided for any written submissions and over 90 written submissions from the public were received and reviewed as this spending plan was constructed.



HCBS Reinvestment: Initial Spend Plan

In developing this spend plan, New Jersey has focused on supporting independence, community options, and person-centered care through a system that serves people the best way possible.

- When crafting the spend plan, we relied on stakeholder input to determine the universe of potential investments.
- Stakeholders spoke to us extensively about workforce development, provider access, independent living, and transition support needs.
- Important considerations in the development of the plan included:
 - whether an investment had a short or long-term horizon,
 - the number of beneficiaries that would be served by such an investment,
 - the presence of other funding in a given investment area, and
 - the state funding gap that could remain after the enhanced funding opportunity ends.

HCBS Reinvestment: Initial Spend Plan

Key elements of the plan:

- Sustaining the recently enacted increase and further increasing the Personal Care Assistant service rate to \$23 per hour.
- Increasing the Personal Preference Program rate to \$19 per hour to help recipients who directly hire and manage someone to provide home care services.
- Sustaining recently enacted Assisted Living rates and boosting rates for facilities that serve a high percentage of Medicaid beneficiaries.
- Enhancing New Jersey's "No Wrong Door" system for accessing HCBS.
- Increasing rates to help maintain a strong workforce in the Jersey Assistance for Community Caregiving program which supports independence as people approach Medicaid eligibility.
- Creating incentives to recruit more and retain existing homecare workers.
- Creating new mechanisms to help transition individuals from nursing homes to home and community-based settings.

HCBS Reinvestment: Initial Spend Plan

Key elements of the plan (continued):

- Building capacity in person-centered planning.
- Increasing reimbursement for Applied Behavior Analysis services for children with autism spectrum disorders.
- Helping traumatic brain injury care providers offset costs associated with COVID-19 health and safety protocols.
- Implementing a new program to assist youth with intensive intellectual and developmental disabilities and/or co-occurring behavioral health needs.
- Incentivizing interoperability of electronic health records for behavioral health providers
- Increasing rates for support coordinators who work as case managers for Medicaid recipients with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Developing new Healthy Homes as deed-restricted, subsidized and accessible rental units for Medicaid beneficiaries across the state.

1115 Comprehensive Medicaid Waiver Demonstration Renewal

1115 Renewal Update

- DMAHS has received extension from CMS for submission of 1115 renewal application.
 - Extension is being used to address certain outstanding technical/budgetary issues
- DMAHS expects to post draft proposal for public comment soon; will be followed by 30 day state public comment period
 - DMAHS will hold two public hearings during comment period, one of which will be special MAAC meeting
- At conclusion of comment period, DMAHS will integrate feedback and submit formal renewal application to CMS.

1115 Renewal - Preview

- 1115 renewal proposal will likely preserve core programmatic elements under 1115 authority (managed care delivery system, existing HCBS programs, enhanced SUD services, etc.)
- Major new initiatives/policy changes contemplated as part of 1115 renewal proposal include:
 - Improving Maternal/Child Health outcomes
 - 12 months of post-partum coverage (amendment is currently under review by CMS, to allow implementation before renewal)
 - Medically indicated meals pilot for gestational diabetes
 - Integrated Care for Kids (InCK) model
 - Enhanced authority for home visiting pilot
 - Supportive Visitation Services for families in child welfare system
 - Addressing Social Determinants of Health
 - New housing transition and tenancy support services, with new DMAHS and MCO infrastructure to support implementation
 - Community Health Worker pilots
 - Additional flexibility for Regional Health Hubs

1115 Renewal – Preview

- Major new initiatives/policy changes contemplated as part of 1115 renewal proposal (cont.):
 - Better coordinating Behavioral Health needs
 - Stakeholder process to improve coordination of medical and behavioral health care
 - Updating of CCBHC program under 1115 authority
 - Coverage of pre-release transitional behavioral health services for incarcerated Medicaid beneficiaries
 - Enhanced federal support for diversion beds
 - Additional federal support for HIT incentives for behavioral health providers
 - Supporting independence, community options, and person-centered care
 - New MLTSS nursing home diversion services – nutrition, caregiver respite and support
 - Potential enhanced access to Medicaid services for certain pediatric populations
 - Program changes to reduce churning between DDD waiver programs and MLTSS
 - Technical fixes and updates to DDD authorities

Discussion and Planning for the Next Meetings

Thank you!

