

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE FINANCE

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STATE PLAN FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

The Director of the Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF), pursuant to the authority set forth in an Act to enable the District of Columbia to receive federal financial assistance under Title XIX of the Social Security Act for a medical assistance program, and for other purposes, approved December 27, 1967 (81 Stat.774; D.C. Official Code §1-307.02 (2012 Repl. & 2014 Supp.)) and the Department of Health Care Finance Establishment Act of 2007, effective February 27, 2008 (D.C. Law 17-109; D.C. Official Code § 7-771.05(6) (2012 Repl.)) hereby gives notice of the intent to amend the District of Columbia State Plan for Medical Assistance (State Plan).

The proposed State Plan Amendments (SPA) is designed to implement a new reimbursement methodology for Medicaid-reimbursable School Based Health Services (SBHS). The goal of Medicaid's SBHS benefit is to support children with disabilities who are entitled to necessary and appropriate health services as a means of accessing free, appropriate public education. SBHS are designed for Medicaid enrollees who are three (3) through twenty (20) years old and meet the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), approved April 13, 1970 (84 Stat.175; 20 U.S.C. §1400 *et seq.*). Under IDEA, the Individualized Education Program (IEP) describes all of the services and supports that an interdisciplinary team of educators and health professionals has determined would best support the child's educational needs. Medicaid-reimbursable SBHS include audiology services, behavioral supports and counseling services, nutrition services, occupational therapy, orientation and mobility, physical therapy, psychological evaluations, skilled nursing, specialized transportation, speech-language pathology, and specialized transportation.

The SBHS SPA seeks to amend the current reimbursement methodology for school based health services ("SBHS") rendered by District of Columbia Public Schools ("DCPS"), District of Columbia Public Charter Schools ("DCPCS"), and the Office of the State Superintendent of Education ("OSSE") in all approved delivery settings by removing the personal care aide (PCA) service. DHCF is not proposing any changes to the delivery of PCA to Medicaid beneficiaries. DHCF assures that this SPA complies with 42 C.F.R. § 440.345 and does not alter the maximum availability of access to those services. PCA services, as prescribed, will continue to be delivered to students during school hours as a DCPS and DCPCS locally-funded schools service. This local schools service is generally referred to as "dedicated care aide" service. Copies of the proposed SPA may be obtained by calling (202) 442-9115, or by sending an email to DHCFPublicComments@dc.gov.

Comments on the SPA will be accepted until December 28, 2015, and may be submitted to the attention of Claudia Schlosberg, J.D., Senior Deputy Director/State Medicaid Director, Department of Health Care Finance, 441 4th Street, NW, Suite 900S, Washington, D.C. 20001, via telephone on (202) 442-9115, via email at DHCFPublicComments@dc.gov.