



OMH Introduces Emerging Changes to HCBS Initiative

June 11, 2020

The NYS Office of Mental Health provided some details today about their plans to make several improvements in the delivery of OMH and OASAS Adult Behavioral Health Home and Community Based Services.

Here are some of the changes that are being contemplated:

- Moving HCBS to the Medicaid Rehabilitation Option and renaming them as Behavioral Health Adult Rehabilitation Services.
- The BH ARS would essentially be simplified to 4 key services:
 - Peer support
 - Psychosocial Rehabilitation, which will subsume education and the array of employment services
 - Community Psychiatric Support and Treatment
 - Family Support and Training

Service definitions would be revised. Non-Medical Transportation and Habilitation be would be eliminated.

- Licensed community providers could directly refer HARP eligible individuals to BH ARS.
- Access to HCBS would no longer require assessments and plans of care from Health Homes and Recovery Coordination Agencies
- Rates would essentially stay the same, as the changes need to be budget neutral.

These proposed changes will be announced this June 17th in the Daily Register and would be followed by an estimated 3 months of public comment, another month of consideration prior to submission to CMS for approval.

There may be a 3-month transition period post approval and before the new program does live.

NYAPRS will work with OMH to provide additional information as it becomes available and to help develop and direct member input back to OMH.