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March 25, 2011

## MEDICAID INFORMATION RELEASE MA11-06

To:

Developmental Disabilities Services Providers; Children's Services Coordination

Providers; Adult Developmental Disabilities Service Coordination Providers

From:

Robert B. Luce, Administrator

Division of Family and Community Service

Subject:

Case Management for Children with Developmental Disabilities Services

Following recent legislative approval of rules governing children's developmental disabilities services, a phased implementation to new Medicaid benefits for children will begin July 1, 2011. Under the new system, children will receive services called case management, which will be provided through the Department or its contractors. This service will include assessment of the child's treatment needs and plan development. As children transition to the new benefits system, the current system will be gradually phased out.

Children are scheduled to transition into the new benefits on their date of birth. Beginning June 1, 2011, families of children with birthdays in October will receive notices from the Department about the steps to take to transition into the new system. This allows a maximum of 120 days for families to complete the process. The process will allow 30 days to initially contact the Department, 30 days to complete eligibility determination and receive a budget, and 60 days to complete the family-centered planning process and select providers for their child's new services.

During the phase-in schedule for the new children's benefits, children with developmental disabilities will gradually be assigned a Department case manager who will take over service coordination and plan development responsibilities for those children as they phase into the new developmental disabilities benefits. This will occur on a case by case basis as families access new developmental disabilities benefits.

It is important to know that these changes to service coordination only impact those children diagnosed with developmental disabilities. If you are providing service coordination for children diagnosed with

Information Release MA11-06 March 25, 2011 Page 2 of 2

either severe emotional disturbance or special health care needs, service coordination will continue to be delivered by Medicaid providers for these populations.

The new case management process for the children's developmental disabilities program will be delivered by the Division of Family and Community Services staff, as well as agencies contracted with the Department. At this time, it has not yet been determined who the contractors will be to deliver case management services.

Agencies interested in contracting for goods and services with the Department should visit the <u>Idaho</u> <u>Department of Administration Web site</u> to learn how to access bid opportunities for the state of Idaho. Once registered, agencies will receive notifications when new bid opportunities become available.

To assist families during their transition, it is important to remind families to update their address and contact information with the Department, or verify that it is correct. This will help to ensure families receive communications and updates from the Department that will help guide them through the process. Families should contact their local <u>Health and Welfare Office</u> to update this information.

If you have questions, please contact the Division of Family and Community Services, Developmental Disabilities program at (208) 334-5701, or visit the <u>Children's Redesign Web site</u>.

RBL/rs