

DIVISION OF DISABILITY AND AGING SERVICES  
CHOICES FOR CARE  
103 SO. MAIN STREET – WEEKS BUILDING  
WATERBURY, VT 05671-1601

TO: Choices for Care Moderate Needs Providers

FROM: Lorraine Wargo, Division Director

DATE: November 3, 2009

RE: Moderate Needs Program Enrollment Freeze

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Effective Friday, November 13, 2009, enrollment in the Choices for Care Moderate Needs option will be frozen to new participants. Applications for service received at the Department prior to the close of business (4:30 p. m.) on November 13 will be honored.

On October 8, 2009, a public meeting was held to gain input on DAIL's plans to request an extension from CMS for the Choices for Care 1115 demonstration waiver for three years beyond the current demonstration period. At this meeting it was brought to our attention that the CMS Terms and Conditions governing Choices for Care demonstration waiver states that:

*“19. Prioritization of Enrollment. The State is reserving a minimum of \$1.7 million per year for provision of services to the Moderate Need group. Medicaid eligibles in the Moderate Need group must be served prior to expansion eligibles.*

*“Should a waiting list for long-term care services develop, the State agrees that individuals entitled to long-term care services will be enrolled in the long-term care program before persons with lighter care need, according to a prioritization process described in the Operational Protocol. Specifically, participants receiving services currently will continue to receive services before participants and applicants in the Highest Need group; participants and applicants in the Highest Need group will receive services before participants and applicants in the High Need groups; **and participants and applicants in the High Need group will receive services before participants and applicants in the Moderate Need group**”. [Emphasis added.]*

As a result, and after consultation with CMS, DAIL has determined that we must make a course correction. In order to correctly serve individuals under the Terms and Conditions of the Choices for Care waiver, we find it necessary to freeze the Moderate Needs Program. Additionally, any Moderate

Needs funds that will not be needed to support enrolled participants for the remainder of the year will be used to meet the needs of High Needs individuals. A process will be put into place to establish prioritization as described in the Operational Protocol and CFC Regulations to serve individuals on the High Needs Applicant list. As funds become available from this action and through attrition from the Moderate Group we will carefully and cautiously manage enrollment from the High Needs applicant list. Choices for Care providers will be notified of that process and any further action that will need to be taken in future correspondence.

If you have any questions, you can contact me at 241-2648 or Adele Edelman at 241-2402 or by email at [Lorraine.Wargo@ahs.state.vt.us](mailto:Lorraine.Wargo@ahs.state.vt.us) or [Adele.Edelman@ahs.state.vt.us](mailto:Adele.Edelman@ahs.state.vt.us).

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