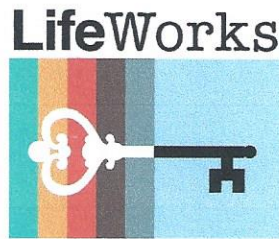


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August 24, 2017

Pat Nisbet, Program Manager  
WV DHHR/BMS  
350 Capitol St.  
Room  
Charleston, WV 25301

Dear Pat,

On behalf of the Quality Improvement Advisory Council, I write to request a systemic change which involves the process of completion for the annual Freedom of Choice form (WV-BMS-I/DD-2) within WV's current ID/D Waiver program.

Currently, a UMC Rep. meets with the member/guardian/legal representative annually to perform the functional assessment and complete the above-mentioned form. Currently, it seems common place for the Service Coordinator to also be present when the member/guardian/legal representative is completing the DD-2. As defined in current Chapter 513 I/DD Waiver Provider Manual p. 125, Utilization Management Contractor (UMC)- "The UMC also provides education for persons, their families, their workers, and IDDW providers." Therefore, it seems prudent that the UMC Rep. could provide resources necessary without Provider staff being present.

The Council requests to lessen the potential for conflict of interest and therefore remove the Service Coordinator's presence during the completion of the DD-2. This shall allow the member/guardian/legal representative the freedom to choose (or not choose) providers for any/all service without outside influence or bias. The UMC Rep. should have at their disposal a current Provider Reference Guide for the member/guardian/legal rep to aid in their decision-making process.

If you should like to discuss this request further, please contact me at your convenience.

Most Sincerely,

Amber L. Hinkle, Chair  
WV IDD QIA Council

1108 WASHINGTON ST. EAST  
LEWISBURG, WV 24901  
(304) 645-2130 • (800) 439-2135  
FAX (304) 647-9943

500 MAIN STREET, SUITE 106  
SUMMERSVILLE, WV 26651  
(304) 872-6560 • (800) 491-4460  
FAX (304) 872-6579