SLIDE #1

Thank you for your interest in becoming a network provider to support individuals and families who have intellectual and developmental disabilities.

This session will give you an overview of the Delaware Division of Developmental Disabilities Services (known by our acronym, DDDS), the Lifespan Waiver, the Pathways to Employment State Plan Amendment, and other basic information you will need to successfully apply.

SLIDE #2

DDDS’ mission is “Valuing persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, honoring abilities, respecting choice, achieving possibilities working together to support healthy, safe, and fulfilling lives.”

You will see how we embody this mission in this session and in the Information Sessions that follow.

DDDS supports individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live their good lives by accessing services they need to thrive in their community. We serve individuals who have IDD, autism spectrum disorder, or Prader-Willi Syndrome. By providing a range of person-centered services, DDDS supports individuals to live healthy, independent, and productive lives I the community.

DDDS identifies and supports the unique needs of each eligible service recipient by offering access to an extensive network of employment services and vocational training, support coordination and community navigation, assistive technologies, respite, day and residential programs, and options for supported living.

These services and supports assist waiver members to remain in his or her family home for as long as possible. We promote independence by strengthening the individual’s capacity for self-care and self-sufficiency while respecting their needs and preferences.

SLIDE #3

The Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (or HCBS) waiver program is authorized in section §1915 (c) of the Social Security Act. The program permits states to furnish an array of home and community-based services that assist Medicaid beneficiaries to live in the community and avoid institutionalization. Each state has broad discretion to design its waiver program to address the needs of the waiver’s target population.

Delaware’s §1915 (c) waiver is called the “Lifespan Waiver.” You can find a link to the Lifespan waiver on the DDDS website. The website address is: dhss.delaware.gov. We strongly encourage you to red the latest waiver application update before you begin the process of applying to become a provider.

There are 4 objectives of the Lifespan waiver:

* Promote independence for individuals enrolled in the waiver and promote the engagement of family and other natural supports whenever possible
* Offer an alternative to institutionalization through the provision of an array of services and supports that promote community integration and independence
* Protect the health and safety of the participants receiving services under the waiver.
* Ensure the highest standards of quality and best practices, through a network of qualified providers.

SLIDE #4

The Pathways to Employment program is an optional state plan benefit to Delaware’s Medicaid program authorized under section 1915(i) of the Social Security Act. This amendment to the state plan contains some of the features of a waiver:

* States can target services to persons based on age, diagnosis, and condition
* States can apply functional criteria, such as limitations caused by disability
* States can provide community-based services not otherwise covered under the state plan to help individuals live independently in the community.

Unlike a waiver, a 1915(i) State Plan Amendment (SPA) does not require individuals to meet an institutional level of care to qualify for HCBS and states cannot limit participation in the program once an individual meets established eligibility criteria.

The Pathways to Employment program is designed to:

* Serve low-income individuals, across disabilities, who have a desire to work in a competitive work environment
* Provide individually tailored services for individuals with visual impairments, physical disabilities, intellectual disabilities (including brain injury) and autism spectrum disorder to help them obtain or sustain competitive employment
* Offer an array of services that will support individuals to explore and plan career paths and build career readiness.

SLIDE #5

Provider partners are essential in accomplishing our goal of delivering quality services. The Division seeks to develop an adequate network of highest-quality providers to serve Delawareans who have intellectual and developmental disabilities. Provider agencies must demonstrate that they have the capacity and the infrastructure necessary to provide direct support to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (also known as CMS) has identified 4 primary responsibilities the state must follow in administering its waiver program:

* The state is responsible for determining the qualifications of waiver providers. One of the ways we do this is by establishing a robust application process for new providers. Through the application process, DDDS can evaluate the administrative and programmatic capabilities of potential providers.
* The waiver’s design must provide for continuously and effectively assuring the health and safety of waiver participants including specifying the qualifications of waiver providers and verifying that providers continually meet these guidelines. Once an applicant becomes an approved provider, DDDS provides monitoring and oversight, and ongoing technical assistance to verify that our network is effectively keeping our waiver members healthy and safe.
* The state must assure in its application that it has designed and implemented an adequate system for assuring that all waiver services are provided by qualified providers.
* States have latitude in establishing qualifications to ensure that providers possess the requisite skills and competencies to meet the needs of the waiver populations. The waiver application asks detailed questions about the potential provider’s mission and philosophy, business practices, history of providing services, financial stability, and its design and plan for delivering the service(s) for which it is applying.

SLIDE #6

CMS requires free choice of providers. Medicaid beneficiaries must be allowed to obtain services from any willing and qualified provider of a service.

Therefore, DDDS CAN NOT recruit, assist, or assign referrals to Authorized Providers. The division shall only list the Authorized Provider on the Authorized List on the division’s web page.

DDDS staff provides Support Coordination, and DDDS has an approved 1915(b)(4) selecting contracting waiver to provide Employment Navigation in-house and to provide Non-medical Transportation through one state-wide vendor.

SLIDE #7

A willing provider agrees to accept a state’s payment as payment in full for rendering a service and to abide by all other Medicaid provider requirements.

SLIDE #8

A qualified provider is one that meets the qualifications for the service it renders. Providers that successfully complete this application process must have contracts with DDDS and with the state Medicaid agency prior to beginning services. We will provide more information about his process in another information session.

SLIDE #9

Your successful application will depend on how well you use the information we have provided through the Provider Manual and through these Information Sessions.

The Provider Manual includes links to several documents that will give you details on topics such as DDDS Regulations, Policies, and Guidance; HCBS Service Definitions; Provider Rates; Provider Standards’ and the latest approved Lifespan waiver.

These Information Sessions consist of 2 sections: the overview section and the service options. You should review all sessions in the Overview section, then only the service option for which you are applying.

If you have additional questions once you’ve reviewed these documents, you can submit them via email to: DDDS\_ProviderAuthCommittee@delaware.gov.