



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES**  
*Aging and Long-Term Support Administration*  
*PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600*

October 31, 2024

**AL TSA: AFH #2024-041**  
**ALF #2024-036**  
**ESF #2024-033**

**NOTIFICATION OF UPCOMING CHANGES TO RESIDENTIAL SUPPORT WAIVER (RSW)**

Dear Provider/Administrator:

DSHS would like to make our residential providers aware of some upcoming changes we intend to make to the Residential Support Waiver (RSW).

There are now two programs that provide individualized staffing support in a residential setting for clients with behavioral health needs:

- The Community Behavioral Health Supports Services (CBHS) program, administered by the Health Care Authority (HCA) under a 1915(i) State Plan Authority, offers 1:1 supportive supervision; and
- The Residential Support Waiver (RSW), administered by DSHS, offers various services that have enhanced staffing ratios.

DSHS is in the process of amending the RSW and the associated rules to clarify eligibility requirements and service coordination between the two programs. These changes are currently anticipated to occur by July 1, 2025. When these changes take place, clients that may need individualized staffing support in a residential setting will need to be referred for an eligibility determination through the CBHS program. Clients will only be eligible for RSW services that offer enhanced staffing support if they are not eligible for the CBHS program. CBHS-eligible clients may still be eligible for additional behavior support services under the RSW as appropriate. This means some clients who are currently receiving RSW services that require enhanced staffing will no longer be eligible for these services once the transition is complete. Instead, they will need to receive this support through the CBHS program.

What do providers need to be aware of to avoid possible disruption in service eligibility?

- As part of the assessment process, DSHS is encouraging potentially eligible clients to transition to the CBHS program prior to RSW waiver amendment and rule changes.
- Providers should consider participating in the CBHS program now, as some of their residents currently receiving RSW services, may only be eligible for the individualized staffing support through the CBHS program in the future.
- If an existing client's current provider is not contracted to provide CBHS, this could disrupt the client's ability to access care when the client's RSW eligibility for services that provide an enhanced staffing ratios ends.
- Additionally, being a contracted CBHS provider will allow providers to be a choice for new clients eligible for CBHS services.

Dear Provider/Administrator: Upcoming Changes to Residential Support Waiver (RSW)

October 31, 2024

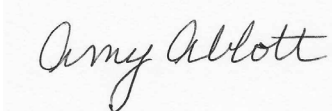
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Thank you for your continued partnership in serving individuals with complex needs. If there are questions regarding this communication, please contact the following:

**Resources**

- For CBHS questions or assistance with contracting please email HCA at [hca1915iservices@hca.wa.gov](mailto:hca1915iservices@hca.wa.gov)
- Visit Health Care Authority's (HCA) website for contracting and eligibility information [Community Behavioral Health Support \(CBHS\) services | Washington State Health Care Authority](#)
- For questions about the DSHS RSW waiver please contact: [residentialsupportwaiver@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:residentialsupportwaiver@dshs.wa.gov)
- If you have questions about current service authorizations through HCS please contact the assigned case manager.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Abbott". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light gray rectangular background.

Abbott, Director  
Residential Care Services

DSHS: *"Partnering with People"*