



September 28, 2020

To: Local Mental/Behavioral Health Authorities
Youth Empowerment Services Providers

Subject: Broadcast Message No. 20.080
Waiver Amendment to the YES Waiver Program – Public Notice

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission posted the following information by public notice in the Sept. 25, 2020 issue of the *Texas Register*, 45 TexReg 6786 at <https://www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/pdf/backview/0925/0925is.pdf>.

"The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) is submitting to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) a request for an amendment to the Youth Empowerment Services (YES) waiver program, a waiver implemented under section 1915(c) of the Social Security Act. CMS has approved this waiver through March 31, 2023. The proposed effective date for the amendment is February 1, 2021. The proposed amendment does not affect the cost neutrality of the waiver.

The request proposes to amend Appendix I to require YES program providers to use electronic visit verification for in-home respite. This requirement is being included to comply with §1903(l) of the Social Security Act, as added by the 21st Century Cures Act.

The YES waiver program is designed to provide home and community-based services to children with serious emotional disturbances and their families, with a goal of reducing or preventing children's inpatient psychiatric treatment and the consequent removal from their families. The waiver currently serves eligible children who are at least three years of age and under 19 years of age.

If you want to obtain a free copy of the proposed request to amend the waiver or if you have questions, or need additional information regarding this amendment you may contact Luis Solorio by email at TX_Medicaid_Waivers@hhsc.state.tx.us or by telephone at (512) 487-3449.

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The local mental/behavioral health authority (LM/BHA) offices will post this notice for 30 days.

The request to amend the waiver is on the HHSC website at <https://hhs.texas.gov/doing-business-hhs/provider-portals/behavioral-health-services-providers/youth-empowerment-services-waiver-providers>.

If you have questions about this broadcast, please email YESWaiver@hsc.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Trina K. Ita, MA, Associate Commissioner
Behavioral Health Services
Medical and Social Services