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April 13, 2022

To: Parents and Guardians of minors with I/DD, CMEs and Providers
(CMEs please share this message with parents/guardians of minors.)

From: Lilia Teninty, Director, Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS)

Subject: Temporary authorization for parents as paid caregivers extended

ODDS has heard from several families about how helpful the Public Health Emergency (PHE) authorization allowing parents and guardians of minors with an intellectual and developmental disability (I/DD) to be their child's paid caregiver during the COVID-19 pandemic has been.

One of the great things about Oregon's developmental disabilities system is that there is often widespread agreement on the core issues that form the foundations of our system. We have heard a number of perspectives about whether parents should continue to be paid to care for their children beyond the pandemic. It's clear that widespread agreement does not exist.

PHE extended

ODDS just received word that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) are **extending the current PHE — scheduled to end Saturday, April 16, 2022 — for 90 days.**

After **the extension ends July 15, 2022**, the temporary authorization allowing parents to serve as paid providers for their children will end.

It's important for families using the PHE option to know that **there will not be a resolution to questions about permanent policy changes before this federal PHE ends.**

Next steps

We encourage parents and guardians who have been working as paid caregivers to work with their services coordinators to prepare for the transition back to using other PSWs and DSPs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lilia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" that loops around.

Lilia Teninty
Director
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

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