



**Date:** June 1, 2020

**To:** Community mental health programs  
Licensed residential treatment providers  
Mental health adult foster homes  
Behavioral health outpatient providers

**From:** Dana Hittle, Deputy State Medicaid Director

**Subject:** Transition to the new Independent Qualified Agent (IQA), Comagine Health

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is required by federal law to contract with an IQA to provide independent assessments and person-centered services planning for Medicaid-eligible individuals who receive:

- 1915(i) Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) State Plan Option services, or
- Non-1915(i) fee-for-service behavioral health services.

IQA responsibilities include but are not limited to fee-for-service behavioral health service prior authorizations, utilization review, 1915(i) HCBS State Plan Option eligibility determinations/redeterminations, functional needs assessments, and person-centered service planning. Comagine Health will be OHA's new IQA effective July 1, 2020.

### What will be changing?

With the new contract, the IQA's role will expand to include the following responsibilities, beginning July 1:

- **State Plan Personal Care (SPPC, or PC20) coordination:** The IQA will increase access to SPPC by accepting referrals from any source, conducting needs assessments, creating person-centered service plans and assisting with enrollment of qualified providers.
- **Assessments and service planning for individuals in behavioral health residential treatment who are not Medicaid-eligible,** including service coordination (or "conflict-free case management") for individuals age 17.5 and older who reside in licensed/certified residential behavioral health settings or the Oregon State Hospital. "Conflict-free case management" means the IQA will work with the individual and all parties involved to resolve issues related to the individual's services, placement or general treatment. OHA will announce and phase in new aspects of this requirement as the contract matures.
- **Increased engagement in the Person-Centered Planning process:** The IQA will monitor and check in with the individual and the Person Centered Planning treatment team on a routine basis throughout the service authorization period.

### What should you do?

**Please continue to send all 1915(i) requests and prior authorizations to KEPRO until close of business on June 30, 2020.** On and after July 1, KEPRO will automatically redirect requests to Comagine Health.

**Attend Comagine Health's introductory webinar on June 17, 2020.** You'll learn more about Comagine Health, the scope of work and the model for providing services, and important details related to documentation and communication with the program.

- In May, Comagine Health sent webinar invites via email and regular mail to all providers, counties, and other stakeholders to register.
- If you did not receive this invite, [please register on the Comagine Health website](#).

**To learn more about the transition, [please visit the Comagine Health website](#).** You can also request introductory meetings with Comagine Health by contacting Alise Campbell.

### **Questions?**

If you have any questions, please contact Alise Campbell, Contract Administrator at [alise.v.campbell@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:alise.v.campbell@dhsosha.state.or.us) or 503-983-6080.

Thank you for your continued support of Oregon's behavioral health system and the services you provide.