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December 26, 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED CARE PROVIDERS

FROM: Jessica Bax, Director
Division of Senior and Disability Services

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessica Bax".

SUBJECT: Level of Care (LOC) Transformation Project – Draft LOC Algorithm Release

This memorandum is to advise all Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) providers of ongoing efforts by the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), Division of Senior and Disability Services (DSDS) to develop and implement updated criteria for determining Nursing Facility Level of Care (LOC). Other than clarification of task definitions and the score needed for eligibility, the process for determining LOC has not changed since the inception of Medicaid-funded HCBS. The goal for this project is to review all aspects of the HCBS assessment process to ensure the right services are provided to the right individuals at the right time.

DSDS conducted three public meetings with stakeholders and national experts to share national best practices in determining HCBS eligibility, gain feedback on the current eligibility system and gather ideas on potential changes to provide the most benefit to participants. Based upon this feedback, a draft LOC algorithm has been developed. Hundreds of cases have been reviewed by DSDS to examine how proposed changes to the algorithm impact current and potential participants and their LOC score.

DSDS is now asking HCBS providers and other stakeholders to assist in this effort. The expertise and experience of providers and other stakeholders is invaluable in understanding the potential impact of any changes. Consider the difficult or extraordinary cases encountered over the years, and what could have made a difference in the outcome. To assist in doing so, DSDS is providing the following tools:

- Review the dedicated website www.health.mo.gov/LOCTransformation, which will launch on December 26, 2018;
- Download and review the Draft LOC Algorithm that contains the initial proposed changes;
- Watch the Draft LOC Tutorial and learn how to apply the adjusted LOC criteria;

www.health.mo.gov

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- Participate in data gathering and feedback submission. Determine the impact to current and potential participants and submit feedback through March 31, 2019, by using the “Send Feedback” link on the LOC Transformation website.
- Review the website regularly for updates, frequently asked questions, and other news relevant to the LOC Transformation project.

The LOC Transformation Project is vitally important to planning for the increased numbers of aging Missourians and to provide continued support for the provision of appropriate HCBS to persons with disabilities. Engaging our stakeholders in the process for change will lead to greater transparency within the program and most importantly, create a positive outcome for the project.

Any questions regarding this memorandum should be directed to the Bureau of Long Term Services and Supports via e-mail at LOCTransformation@health.mo.gov or by phone at (573)526-8557.

JB/ke

CC: Distribution Lists 3 & 4