

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

### **HOPE Waiver Program**

The South Dakota HOPE Waiver operated by the Department of Human Services Division of Long Term Services and Supports, which serves South Dakotans age 65 and older as well as individuals over the age of 18 who have a qualifying disability, is submitting to amend the waiver. The proposed changes in this amendment are:

- **The Level of Care criteria has been modified to more accurately identify individuals who are at risk for nursing facility placement. In this amendment, the current requirement of weekly mental health therapy is being replaced with the new requirement for continuing mental health services provided through the Comprehensive Assistance with Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) or Individualized and Mobile Program of Assertive Community Treatment (IMPACT) program and a need for waiver services to prevent nursing facility placement as documented by a mental health professional.**
- **The process by which Level of Care determinations and redeterminations are made has been updated. The Medical Review Team, which currently consists of a Nurse Consultant and an LTSS Specialist will be updated to consist solely of a Nurse Consultant employed by the Department of Human Services.**

**The updates will be effective upon approval of South Dakota Administrative Rule, which is anticipated to be November 27th, 2023.**

The HOPE Waiver amendment is available online at <http://dhs.sd.gov/ltss/titleix.aspx> or a printed copy can be requested by contacting the Division of Long Term Services and Supports at 605-773-3656.

The proposed HOPE waiver is available for public comment for 30 days beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, through May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. DHS appreciates your questions and comments. Comments may be made by e-mail to [hcbs@state.sd.us](mailto:hcbs@state.sd.us), by phone at 605-773-3656, or by mail to:

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