



February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Dear Children's Extensive Support Family,

As of July 2006, you have been hearing of changes occurring to how the Children's Extensive Support (CES) Waiver is operated both on a CCB and State level. These changes have been implemented as a result of a survey conducted in 2004 by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)- (the federal agency that is responsible for administration of Medicare as well as Medicaid).

In September, 2006, we shared the information we knew at that time, and the potential impacts to your child's services. There are several additional changes and clarifications to report, so many in fact that you will receive a second letter shortly with details specifically related to programmatic, service, and process changes. Today's letter focuses on two upcoming changes involving our provider billing process, and the upcoming Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) assessment.

One impact the CMS survey results have had upon Pathways and our providers is in the billing arena. Pathways has been proud to allow for a wide variety of choice when it comes to SLS and CES providers. We work with approximately 100 independent contractors and 15 Program Approved Service Agencies regularly, along with large numbers of therapists and home health agencies in the public arena. An average of 250 separate invoices are routinely processed on a weekly basis. The new requirements for financial reporting require additional detailed information to be reflected in the billing and reporting, and has significantly increased Medicaid billing and accounts receivable reporting time. Employee time is spent with providers to correct invoice problems, to address billing submitted 2-3 months late, obtain required contact notes showing the services on the IP were provided, among other problems. We are working hard to keep our costs down so that we can assure that the maximum of funding is applied directly to services.

With the increased data-reporting requirements we must reduce the number of invoices to be processed, and we also must ensure that individual children's plans are billed every month for services provided (a requirement to remain in the CES waiver program). To assist in meeting these requirements, Pathways is requiring every independent contractor and Program Approved Service Agency to bill monthly, beginning for services provided in April, 2007.

An upcoming change for the Supported Living Services (SLS) program is the expected implementation of the SIS (Supports Intensity Scale) assessment tool, beginning the summer of 2007. It has not yet been determined when (or if) the SIS will be modified and utilized for children under 18 years of age. However, as your child approaches adulthood, it will be helpful for you to learn about this tool, as it will be implemented if and when your child enrolls into adult services.

As more information is shared with us, we will share it with you, either through website updates at [developmentalpathways.org](http://developmentalpathways.org), [ccbpartners.org](http://ccbpartners.org), written correspondence, or via your Children's Extensive Support Coordinator. For information regarding the SIS assessment tool, you may also access DDD's website homepage at: <http://www.cdhs.state.co.us/ddd/>.

Please contact your CESC with your questions. We appreciate your continued cooperation during these sometimes confusing changes and are committed to navigate through these changes together, as your child's needed services and supports continue.

Sincerely,

Shilo Carson  
Director, Supported Living Services

Cc: Bob Ward, Director of Client and Family Relations