

From Inclusion to Belonging to Faith Based Communities

Opportunities for Providers and Religious Organizations

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CMS Requirements

- The home and community-based setting requirements provide for an outcome oriented definition that **focuses on the nature and quality of individuals' experiences**
- The **requirements maximize opportunities for individuals to have access to the benefits of community living** and the opportunity to receive services in the most integrated setting

Home and Community-Based Setting Requirements

The Home and Community-Based setting...

- Is integrated in and supports access to the greater community
- Provides opportunities to seek employment and work in competitive integrated settings, engage in community life, and control personal resources
- Ensures the individual receives services in the community to the same degree of access as individuals not receiving Medicaid home and community-based services

HCBS Person-Centered Service Plans continued

- Reflects cultural considerations
- Uses plain language
- Includes strategies for solving disagreement
- Offers choices to the individual regarding services and supports the individual receives and from whom
- Provides method to request updates

HCBS Person-Centered Service Plans continued

- Conducted to reflect what is important to the individual to ensure delivery of services in a manner reflecting personal preferences and ensuring health and welfare
- Identifies the strengths, preferences, needs (clinical and support), and desired outcomes of the individual

HCBS Person-Centered Service Plans continued

- May include whether and what services are self-directed
- Includes individually identified goals and preferences related to
 - relationships
 - community participation
 - employment
 - income and savings
 - healthcare and wellness
 - education
 - and others

HCBS Written Person-Centered Service Plan Documentation

Written plan reflects:

- Setting is chosen by the individual and is integrated in, and supports full access to the greater community
- Opportunities to seek employment and work in competitive integrated settings
- **Opportunity to engage in community life, control personal resources, and receive services in the community to the same degree of access as individuals not receiving Medicaid HCBS**

HCBS Written Person-Centered Service Plan Documentation continued

- Reflects individual's strengths and preferences
- Reflects clinical and support needs
- Includes goals and desired outcomes
- Providers of services/supports, including unpaid supports provided voluntarily in lieu of waiver or state plan HCBS

Providers

Opportunities

Outreach to Congregations

- Sabbath and Holiday Observances
- Attend Friday evening and Saturday morning services
- For festive holidays synagogue groups make parties, bring gifts
- Invitations to congregational events
- Join in synagogue Sabbath meals, Passover seders, Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur (High Holiday) services

Providers-continued

- Provide opportunities for individuals to have Bar or Bat Mitzvahs at either the synagogues in which they grew up or ones with which agency establishes relationships
- Families invite individuals to their homes for Sabbath or holiday meals

And then.....relationships begin.....

Story of Hannah

Congregations

Opportunities

- Education
 - Pre-school
 - Religious School
 - Bar and Bat Mitzvah
 - Youth Groups
- Religious Practices
 - Participation in services
 - Ritual bath

Congregations-continued

- **Inclusion Task Force – Moving from Inclusion to Belonging**
 - Promoting meaningful participation for all who seek it
 - Resource to congregation
 - Members are disabled people, family members, congregants, staff liaison, clergy
 - Train staff in appropriate responses to behavioral challenges
 - Ensure security officers are properly trained to respond to behavioral challenges

Congregations-continued

Challenges

- Create truly inclusive educational opportunities
- Create low sensory services or rooms through which those who need it may participate
- Ability to respond to range of disabilities
- Promote social belonging for all ages
- Teach, model, and be attentive to opportunities to educate congregants

Individuals and Families

- Advocate
- Educate
- Collaborate

Selected Resources

- Hineinu: a collaboration of disability professionals, activists, and policy experts from the Conservative, Orthodox, Reconstructionist and Reform Jewish Movements designed to increase disability inclusion in our synagogues for people of all abilities.
- Chabad: Friendship Circles
- Orthodox: Yachad, The National Jewish Council for Disabilities
- Reform Movement: Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism
- Conservative Movement: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
 - Ruderman Inclusion Action
 - Camp Ramah Tikvah Program

Resources-continued

- Shelly Christensen, MA: *Jewish Community Guide to Inclusion of People with Disabilities*, 2008
- Sara Rubinow Simon, *V'khol Banayikh: Jewish Education for All*, 2010
- Matan Institute, www.matankids.org: Matan advocates for Jewish students with special needs, empowers their families, and educates Jewish leaders, teachers and communities so that all Jewish children have access to a rich and meaningful Jewish education