Announcement

Regulation Project Underway

ODP Communication Number: Announcement 015-15

The mission of the Office of Developmental Programs is to support Pennsylvanians with developmental disabilities to achieve greater independence, choice and opportunity in their lives.

AUDIENCE: All Interested Parties

DISCUSSION: In January 2015, Deputy Secretary Steve Suroviec convened a Regulation Work Group of individuals who receive services, family members, advocates, providers representing diverse geographic and service experiences, provider associations and local and state government representatives to advise the Department on recommended revisions to the Ch. 51 Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) regulations. The regulations govern the program, operational and fiscal aspects of the HCBS federal waiver program that serves individuals with intellectual disabilities, as well as adults with autism. The mission of the Work Group is to support Pennsylvanians with intellectual disabilities and autism to achieve greater independence, choice and opportunity in their lives; to listen to the concerns, views and suggestions from interested parties and to cultivate constructive dialogue, promote understanding and encourage compromise. The Work Group will meet eight times from February through May, resulting in a draft of proposed rulemaking; after the proposed regulations wind their way through the PA regulatory process, the regulations will be published as proposed rulemaking for public comment during the fall/winter of 2015. The department is considering an alternate regulatory process that would omit formal proposed rulemaking; if this occurs, the department will still provide an opportunity for public review and written comment. Public comment is welcomed and encouraged during the public comment process. After a robust and interactive public comment process, final publication of the new regulations is anticipated for the late summer/fall of 2016, with staggered implementation in 2016-18.