



PAR Mail 2008-025

January 23, 2008

To: PAR Members and Associates

From: Shirley Walker, President and CEO

PAR Comments on Draft Service Definitions

This week, PAR submitted comments and recommendations to the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) on the Draft Service Definitions for Consolidated Waiver, Person/Family Directed Support Waiver, and Base-Funded Services. PAR's comments were based on our analysis of the draft service definitions and recommendations submitted to us by our members.

The current draft is a vast improvement over the May 2007 draft. ODP accepted several of our key recommendations including changing denial letter requirements; removing strict limitations on several services including respite; and some promising new services have been added. While the current draft is greatly improved, some critical issues need further work or clarification. Among these issues are nursing services (rates and prior authorization requirements); enhanced residential staffing; restrictions on services such as therapies/nursing consultation; and service definitions that reflect different levels of acuity and costs for lifesharing.

PAR's comments are included below. If you need assistance opening this file, please contact laura@par.net or use your member access to download the file at www.par.net.



Comments
2008.0121 Draft Serv

PAR President and CEO Shirley Walker met yesterday with Deputy Secretary Casey and congratulated ODP on the excellent improvements and asked him to carefully review our recommendations to further improve the service definitions. He was very receptive, stating that he was pleased with the improvements in the latest draft and welcomes reviewing PAR's further recommendations. Deputy Casey agreed that while the first year using the new service definitions will not be under a pilot, if it is shown that additional improvements to the definitions are needed, ODP will work to be responsive and flexible to help insure that people are well served.

If you have additional comments and recommendations, please send them to laura@par.net so PAR can effectively track the ongoing concerns. ODP has promised to amend the service definitions if that becomes necessary, so PAR remains vigilant about how the service definitions will be implemented in the community system. ODP expects to issue final service definitions in August. PAR will alert members when this happens.