



DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

OIFA Member Newsletter - March 2022

Parents As Paid Caregivers for Minor Children

AHCCCS received temporary authority from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to permit parents to be paid caregivers of minor children under a special waiver during the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE). This flexibility was scheduled to end at the conclusion of the PHE. AHCCCS will be temporarily extending this flexibility through March 31, 2024, as part of its American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) spending plan.

At the end of the PHE the program will be the same with the addition of a new requirement. Parents will not be able to exceed 40 hours of paid care in a given week. This applies to all parents, even those employed by multiple agencies. AHCCCS will post a frequently asked questions document on their website specific to this flexibility in the coming weeks.

Article Revision Informal Public Comment

The Department of Economic Security (Department) is in the process of rewriting multiple Articles that are part of Title 6 of the Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.) Chapter 6. These are the administrative rules that direct many Division activities. The Department is seeking informal input as these rules are drafted. This will ensure stakeholders' comments and concerns are considered early in the rule writing process. Current Articles available for informal public comment are:

- [Article 10 - public comments will be accepted through March 21, 2022](#)
- [Article 15 - public comments will be accepted through March 21, 2022](#)
- [Articles 1, 6, 8, 12, 13, 16, 22 and 23 - public comments will be accepted through March 25, 2022](#)

The Public Notices linked above include:

- Details about the revisions for each Article.
- Directions on how to submit comments.
- Links to the draft revisions for each Article.

There will be a formal public comment period after the rules are published in the Arizona Administrative Register.

COVID-19 Update

Arizona continues to be impacted by positive COVID-19 cases.

Arizonans 5 years of age and older can receive the Pfizer vaccine. Arizonans 18 years of age and older can receive the Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson vaccine. COVID-19 vaccines are safe, highly effective and available at no cost.

Mask Guidance

On Friday, February 25, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its guidance on when to wear a mask. They have developed an online tool to show the guidance based on the county based on the level of COVID-19 in the community. This tool can be found on the [CDC website](#) as well as on the [DDD Actions Related to COVID-19](#) webpage.

Booster Shots

The CDC recommends booster shots for:

- Anyone who received a second dose of either Pfizer or Moderna at least five months ago.
- Anyone who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine at least two months ago.

The Moderna and Pfizer mRNA vaccine boosters are preferred even if an individual received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine initially. However, the Johnson & Johnson booster is available if that is the person's preference.

How to Get the Vaccine

The vaccines are as widely available and as easily accessible as possible. Vaccines are available at pharmacies, doctor's offices and other locations run by county health departments. You can find a vaccine site near you online at <https://www.azdhs.gov/findvaccine> or by calling 1-844-542-8201. You can text your zip code to 438829, for English, or 822862, for Spanish, to receive a text message with details about three locations near you with vaccine availability.

How to Get Tested

Testing is available to anyone who thinks they may have COVID-19. A testing location near you can be found online at <https://www.azdhs.gov/covid19/index.php#everyone-get-tested>. The federal government has also made at-home tests available at no cost. These can be ordered by visiting <https://www.covidtests.gov/>.

Eligible Medicaid members can get non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) to their vaccine appointment. Contact your [health insurance provider](#) for more details. You can also find facts and myths about the COVID-19 vaccine on the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) website. All guidance and details about flexibilities allowed during the COVID-19 public health emergency are available on the [DDD Actions Related to COVID-19 web page](#).

Virtual Planning Meetings for Members Eligible for ALTCS

Beginning April 1, 2022, person-centered service planning meetings can be held in-person for members eligible for the Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS) if the member chooses that option. This means members and their families can select to have their person-centered service planning meeting in person, rather than virtually. Members can tell their Support Coordinator at their next planning meeting if they would like to have their next meeting in-person.

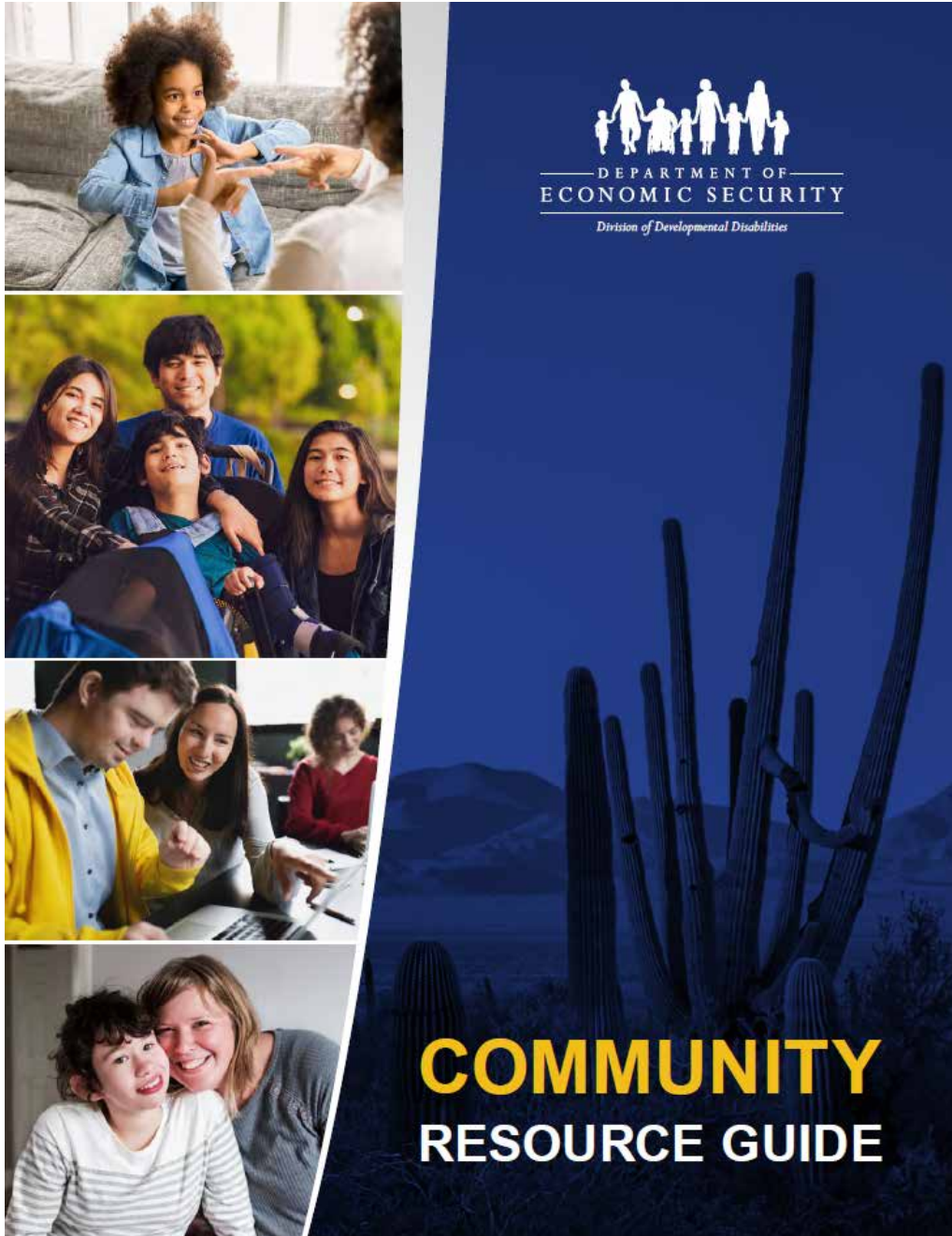
Virtual person-centered service plan meetings will continue to be an option for members and families who prefer not to meet in person. The person-centered service planning process focuses on what is best for the member. This change allows members to choose the meeting type that best fits their needs.

Policy Updates

The Division is currently accepting public comments regarding revised Division policies. The policy revisions can be found on the Division's [Policy page](#). Members and families can use this form, <https://forms.gle/4MGCsdyKTRPJna3m9>, to submit public comments. Members or families interested in being notified about policy changes can [register online](#) to receive updates.

Community Resource Guide

Review DDD's Community Resource Guide to find agencies and programs that may be able to assist your family.



<https://des.az.gov/sites/default/files/dl/DDD-2116A.pdf?time=1647449242666>

Opioid Response Resources Available from Arizona State University

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oATnSpR8Zm8>

MEDICATION FOR OPIOID USE DISORDER
Consumer Guide

WE HAVE UPDATED GUIDES!

Created in partnership with AHCCCS and the ASU Medical Advisory Board, pocket consumer guides...

Are you or someone you know struggling with **opioids?**

Medication may be the answer

ASU Center for Applied Behavioral Health Policy
Arizona State University

- are tailored for individuals considering medication for opioid use disorder
- give an overview of opioid use disorder, withdrawal symptoms, different medications, overdose prevention, and more

Printed guides can be ordered **free of charge** by scanning the QR code.

ASU Center for Applied Behavioral Health Policy
Arizona State University

This project is made possible through AHCCCS by grant number H79TI083320 from SAMHSA

Download the ASU opioid guide:

https://cabhp.asu.edu/sites/default/files/mat_printable_guide_consumer_2021_v2.pdf

Additional resources:

- Arizona Opioid Assistance and Referral (OAR) Line 1-888-688-4222
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA):
 - [Treatment locator](#)
 - Hotline 1-800-662-HELP (4357)
 - Text 435748 (HELP4U)
 - TTY: 1-800-487-4889

NAMI SEEDS Conference

Mental Health America of Arizona (MHA AZ) is hosting their SEEDS conference March 24, 2022, in-person. This year's conference theme, Strength and Resilience will build collaborative partnerships that promote the mental health, resilience and self-determination of countless people across Arizona. Learn more at <https://mhaarizona.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/mhaarizona/event.jsp?event=4&>.

Town Hall Meetings

DDD hosts town hall meetings for members, families and providers. You can join via the Internet or by telephone. Attendees can also ask questions. The next town hall will be held on Thursday, April 7, 2022. Visit <http://bit.ly/dddtownhall> for details to join.

Community Resources

DDD has information for local, state, and national groups that support members and their families. The DDD website has links to many of these groups that can assist with day to day tasks and other services that may not be covered by the Division. [Visit the community resources section of the DDD website to learn more.](#)

Crisis Services

If you, a family member, or a friend have a mental health emergency, it is important that you seek help right away. Trained crisis staff are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to help over the phone. The Crisis lines are free, confidential, and open to anyone who needs help. For medical, police and fire emergency situations, always call 911.

Suicide and Crisis Hotlines by County

- Maricopa County served by Mercy Care: 1-800-631-1314 or 602-222-9444
- Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, La Paz, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz and Yuma Counties served by Arizona Complete Health - Complete Care Plan: 1-866-495-6735
- Apache, Coconino, Gila, Mohave, Navajo and Yavapai Counties served by Health Choice Arizona: 1-877-756-4090
- Gila River and Ak-Chin Indian Communities: 1-800-259-3449
- Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community: 1-855-331-6432
- Tohono O'odham Nation: 1-844-423-8759

Especially for Teens

- Teen Life Line phone or text: 602-248-TEEN (8336)

National 24-Hour Crisis Hotlines

Phone

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
- National Substance Use and Disorder Issues Referral and Treatment Hotline: 1-800-662-HELP (4357)

Text

- Text the word "HOME" to 741741

Report Fraud, Waste or Abuse

Medicaid fraud, waste and abuse (FWA) are crimes. Report fraud, waste, and abuse right away. You will not get in trouble or lose services if you report any suspected fraud, waste, or abuse.

You can report FWA to DDD by:

- Calling DDD at 1-877-822-5799
- Sending an email to dddfwa@azdes.gov
- Sending a letter to DES/DDD, Attn: Corporate Compliance Unit, 1789 W Jefferson St., Mail Drop 2HA1, Phoenix, AZ 85007
- Completing this [online form](#).

You can also report FWA to AHCCCS

- Call the Office of the Inspector General at 602-417-4193
- Report Online at the [AHCCCS Website](#)
- Report provider fraud by calling:
 - Maricopa County: 602-417-4045
 - Outside Maricopa County: 1-888-487-6686
- Report member fraud by calling:
 - Maricopa County: 602-417-4193
 - Outside Maricopa County: 1-888-487-6686
- Submit general questions via email at AHCCCSFraud@azahcccs.gov.

Stay Up to Date

All old OIFA newsletters are available to view on DDD's website. Visit the [Member Services](#) page and click on the "Member Newsletters" section.

DDD is Here to Help

Please contact your Support Coordinator or the DDD Customer Service Center at 1-844-770-9500 ext. 1 (TTY/TDD 711) if you have questions.

Call the DDD Customer Service Center at 1-844-770-9500 ext. 1, TTY/TDD 711, to ask for this material in other formats. Language help is available at no cost to you.