



EXECUTIVE MEMO

TO: Executive Directors, DSN Boards, Operating Board Billed Respite Programs

FROM: CFO Pat Maley

SUBJECT: Impact of Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) on Board Operated Respite Programs

DATE: October 14, 2021

Executive Directors,

The purpose of this email is to move the Board billed respite issue one more step towards resolution due to the impact of the scheduled implementation of the federally mandated Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) for Personal Care Services, to include Respite, in January 2021. Per our virtual Microsoft Team's meeting on 9/28, Boards were requested to continue or convert to an employer status to continue to serve respite. All other models, generally serving as fiscal/payroll agent, will need to coordinate the transition of their clients to Charles Lea Center (CLC) fiscal agent and then discontinue respite operations. After the meeting, there were a number of individual follow-up discussions and most Boards appear to have made their decision. **Please formally notify Finance Director Debbie Punzirudu via email (debra.punzirudu@ddsn.sc.gov) of your agency's decision by 10/22/2021.**

DDSN will notify each agency transitioning to CLC of their timeline and instructions for transfer. In the interim, you should review your files for all workers to ensure that you have all required documentation. This includes FBI fingerprint background checks for caregivers working with minors or a SLED check for caregivers working with adults; First Aid Training; negative TB test results; DSS child abuse registry clearance; and a HHS Medicaid fraud registry clearance. Your transfer instructions will then have you contact the Respite Coalition (Toy Pilot, telephone 803/935-5027) to coordinate completing the files, if needed, and certifying your workers. Subsequently, Respite Coalition will confirm with CLC the worker's certification which will then allow CLC to proceed admitting the worker into the self-directed program.

As a reminder to the DDSN Executive Memo, dated, 9/10/21, if a Board is operating as an employer of caregivers, then the Board has complete discretion in setting caregiver rates to operate its business. If a Board is operating as a fiscal/payroll agent, then the Board must pay the self-directed hourly caregiver rate of \$14.68/hour until it transitions to CLC. DDSN will continue to pursue having a separate, and higher, respite rate for businesses, but currently there is one respite rate (\$4.05/15 minutes; \$16.20/hour) supporting both business and self-directed services.

Thank you in advance for strongly considering maintaining and/or converting to the employer respite model. This keeps a "brick & mortar" respite service in your community as preferred by many clients. However, we fully recognize even at the much higher rate of \$16.20/hour, maintaining this service in an era of conflict-free case management may not fit into your service portfolio. Either way, thank all of you for maintaining this important service in your community over the years despite most certainly operating it at a financial loss at the old rate.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call Debbie Punzirudu (803/898-9720) or myself (803-898-0769).