DDSD-DDW Numbered Memo 2021-07

Date: September 15, 2021

To: All DD Waiver Case Management agencies
Socialization and Sexuality Education agencies

From: Jason Cornwell
Director, DDSD

Subject: Clinical Criteria: Limits on Amount Frequency and Availability of Socialization and Sexuality Education (Friends and Relationships Courses) and Billing Unit Clarification in the 2021 Standards

As we revised our 1915c DDW application to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), DDSD also reviewed and revised existing standards *and* the Clinical Criteria for all services. It came to our attention during this review that the information on the annual budget limits for SSE (aka. Friends and Relationships Courses) in the ***Clinical Review and Clinical/Service Criteria Version 5*** published in June 2018 was incorrect. This version incorrectly states that: "Amount available is **2 full series** or **48 total classes** per ISP term. [emphasis added]" **The reference to two full series AND 48 total classes are both incorrect.**

In Appendix C: Participant Services C-3: Service Specification, the section on applicable limits on the amount, frequency, or duration of this service in our agreement with the federal government, it states: "Authorization for per class rate shall not exceed twenty-four (24) classes (total of 48 hours) per student per ISP year." As a result, DDSD revised the ***Clinical Review and Clinical/Service Criteria Version 6*** to reflect this language.

Finally, we added clarifying language in the SSE Agency Requirements Section 14.8.3 of the 2021 DD Waiver Service Standards indicating that SSE provider agencies may provide a maximum of 1 billable unit per class term up to a maximum of three units per ISP year, with NO lifetime restrictions on the number of classes the individual may attend. (This lifting of the lifetime restriction did occur prior to 2019).

Please utilize these guidelines immediately when submitting budgets that include Socialization and Sexuality Education services.