

# RTC WAIVER

*Community Treatment and Support for Maryland Children and Youth with Intensive Mental Health Needs*

## **A Brief Introduction to the RTC Waiver: Maryland's 1915(c) PRTF Demonstration Waiver**

The purpose of the waiver is to provide home and community-based services to Maryland children and youth ages 6-21 who require an Residential Treatment Center (RTC)-level of care. The Waiver is a federal demonstration Waiver ending on September 30, 2012. Maryland is one of nine states with this Waiver. The RTC Waiver uses a team-based approach called Wraparound to provide mental health and medical services to youth with serious mental health needs. The team – including the youth, family members, care coordinators, and service providers – will develop an individualized plan of care that supports the child and his/her family.

The RTC Waiver is based on systems of care values and principles. Services and supports provided through the Waiver should strive to be family-driven, youth-guided, culturally and linguistically competent, community-based, and flexible and individualized. The state share of the costs for the Waiver will come primarily from the Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund.

A child and family can receive services for up to two years in the RTC Waiver. Because of the specialized services, the RTC waiver has a limited number of openings, or slots, each year. In the first year of operation (through September 30, 2009), the RTC Waiver will serve up to 70 youth. For each year after that, the RTC Waiver will serve up to a total of 80 youth, including any youth who are "carried over" from the prior year. Once the annual cap on waiver participation or slot allocation is reached, a waiting list will be established for the categories of eligibility for individuals interested in applying for waiver services.

Slots will be reserved in the following way:

- 50% of waiver slots will be reserved for youth who are Community Medicaid/MCHP Eligible
- 50% of waiver slots will be reserved for youth who are *not* in the custody of the State

The slot reservations are *not* mutually exclusive, so a youth can count in both categories.

At the start of the waiver, priority eligibility will go to eligible individuals who are currently being served in Wraparound projects in the designated service areas. After that point, eligible individuals shall be enrolled in the waiver program on a first-come, first-served basis in accordance with the slot allocation until the cap on waiver participation is reached.

Youth who are enrolled in the RTC Waiver will receive care coordination provided by a Care Management Entity (CME). The CME uses a practice model of High Fidelity Wraparound. Each participant will have a care coordinator who will convene and facilitate a Child and Family Team. Family support partners and youth support partners will also be available to youth and their families. The CME will also serve as the entry point into the Waiver, supporting families and youth through the enrollment process. Additionally, the CME will be a key participant in the provider recruitment and enrollment process.

The Mental Hygiene Administration (MHA) within the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) is the operating agency for the Waiver. The Medicaid Division of Waiver Programs is responsible for oversight of the Waiver. Daily project management and evaluation for the Waiver is conducted by the Maryland Child and Adolescent Innovations Institute and Mental Health Institute at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. For more information, please to go [www.medschool.umaryland.edu/innovations](http://www.medschool.umaryland.edu/innovations) and click on the link for the RTC Waiver.