

*The Resource -- June 2018*

**Special Recognition for Special Partner**

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**Legislative Update**

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**Training Schedule**

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### **Important Communication from the Department of Human Services**

On June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 a communication was sent out by the Department of Human Services (DHS) on the transition from Fiscal Support Entity (FSE) to Fiscal Management Service Providers (FMS) for the programs of Consumer Directed Community Supports (CDCS) and the Consumer Support Grant (CSG).

At this time there is no definite date when this transition will take place, but MRCI has been selected as an approved FMS provider. So we would like to add some clarification to ensure a smooth transition.

First off, you do not need to change providers. If you are happy with your services with MRCI you do not have to make a change. You have the choice in providers for your services and can make a change

at any time, but we at MRCI strive for the best possible service.

Secondly, once the change to FMS Providers is made official, the participants will need to make a program model change. Currently Agency with Choice is a model option under the programs of Consumer Directed Community Supports (CDCS) and the Consumer Support Grant (CSG) where MRCI is considered the employer. After the transition to FMS, participants will need to make the transition to Fiscal Employer Agent (FE/A) or Payroll Model. Under this model the participant is the employer and certain staff members are eligible for tax exemptions. If you want to make the transition now to Payroll Model, please contact our program staff for further information.

Again, MRCI has been selected as an approved FMS provider and our staff are here to answer all your questions and concerns. MRCI will update those affected as the changes occur. We are looking forward to continuing with you through this transition.

## Special Recognition for a Special Partner!

Michelle Bjick was awarded the Certificate in Excellence in Self-Direction for June.

Michelle was nominated by Melanie Gorans because of her responsiveness and ability to be counted whenever help is needed.

Michelle has been with Hennepin County for two years. She is a strong advocate for self-directed services.

Michelle says she loves self-direction because she enjoys seeing the whole community involved in helping someone.

And while she is new to working with people with disabilities, she loves the opportunity to work with the whole family when doing CDCS. Michelle's belief that CDCS works as a cutting edge way to help individuals get the best possible services is an obvious reason she won this honor. Thank you for your service and commitment Michelle!



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

In February, MRCI shared a list of initiatives put forth by advocacy groups, disability organizations and/or disability lobbyists. With the closing of the 2018 legislative session, MRCI partnered with the Minnesota Home Care Association and Fredrickson and Byron to recap where the bills landed.

A vast majority of the Health and Human Services bills were included in the Omnibus Bill passed by both the House and the Senate. The Omnibus bill was over 900



pages, and included initiatives of Elder Abuse initiatives, Opioids, Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) and many of the items below. Governor Dayton did veto the Omnibus Bill after the session ended. While this is a little set back, advocacy groups, disability organizations and disability lobbyists plan to come back next year to try again.



### **Service Documentation:** addressing timesheet documentation for direct care workers

- In the 2017 legislative session, State offices wanted increased documentation requirements for direct care workers in programs like Consumer Directed Community Supports (CDCS). The initiative did not pass, but will be brought back for further discussion.
- Outcome: Bill was not adopted due to Electronic Visit Verification.

### **SEIU Contract Negotiations:** rate increases and training incentives

- In the 2017 legislative session, the SEIU contract was not fully ratified. Therefore, SEIU would like to go back to the legislature to negotiate items for training incentives and to possibly increase wages for direct care workers within the collective bargaining agreement.

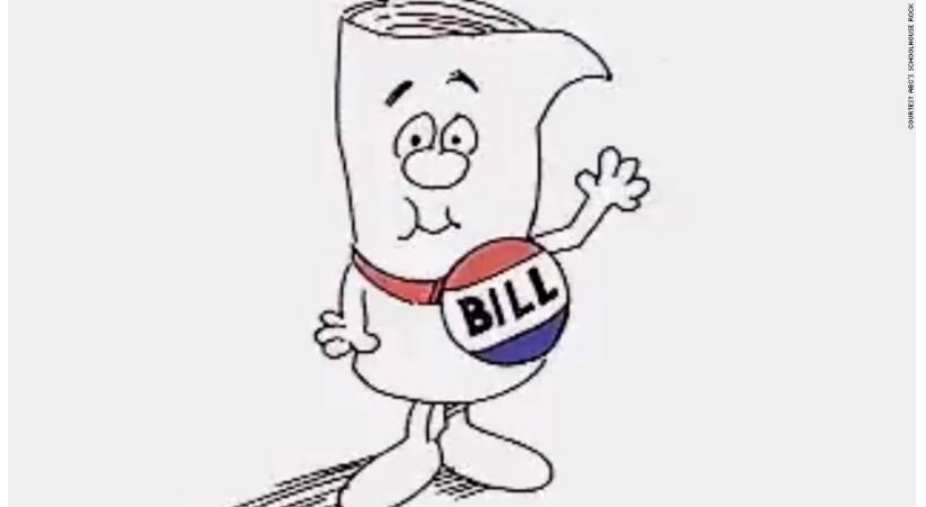
- Outcome: SEIU will have registration available July 1<sup>st</sup> for up to 5000 staff to be eligible and receive payment (stipend) for the training under the programs of CDCS, CSG and PCA Choice. Once completed the staff will be eligible for a \$500 stipend. The Department of Human Services (DHS) is working closely with SEIU and will send communications to eligible staff.

### **PCA Complex Care:**

- Language was proposed in 2017, but unfortunately part of the bill was not passed for recipients who have more than 12 hours or more of care per day based of their assessment to have an increased unit rate for staff who have meet the qualified training requirements starting July 1<sup>st</sup> 2018. The bill is still open and will be looked at again this session.
- SEIU was able to get a piece of this proposal language passed last session as part of their agreement. It is stated that in July of 2018, 5% increase will go into place for PCAs serving individuals eligible for 12 or more hours of PCA services a day after completion of a training approved by the Department of Human Services.
- Outcome: A bill was proposed to decrease the hour per day amount to 10 hours for the enhanced rate. Unfortunately this was not passed and remains at 12 or more hours per

day for the 5% enhanced rate increase. Eligible staff will have to complete a training approved by the Department of Human Services (DHS).

- The Department of Human Services (DHS) is working closely with SEIU and will send communications to eligible staff currently under the PCA Choice program. DHS is waiting for Federal approval for the enhanced rate for the programs of CDCS and CSG.



## Training Schedule and Policy

All 245D employees (Personal Support/Respite/Host Home) will be required to complete 12 hours of training. Due to licensing regulations, the trainings need to be completed within the month being assigned.

Below is a list of the trainings and the months they will be assigned. Employees that are hired within the calendar year will also be expected to complete the trainings below along with their orientation training. The training will be

assigned on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month and will need to be **completed on the last day of the month**. If the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month lands on a weekend, training will be assigned on the Friday before.

**Failure to complete trainings within the deadline will result in suspension of employment.** An email will be sent out when training is assigned to the employee's email addresses on file. MRCI will not be accepting other providers' trainings.

Employees can login to Direct Course to complete this training by clicking [here](#).



Month	Subject	Paid hours
June	HIPPA/Data Privacy, First Aid	2.50
August	Client Rights	1.0
September	Positive Supports Rule-refresher	4.0
October	CSSPA Review, Person Centered Planning, Communication	2.0

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