Dear NASHIA Member,

As States are lifting their stay-at-home orders, service providers and employers may be considering precautions in order to contain the COVID-19 virus. To assist these entities with reopening, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued guidelines for businesses, as well as programs that serve individuals with disabilities. These guidelines are included in this second issue of COVID-19 Resources and Updates, published by NASHIA. This issue also lists State brain injury policies, guidance, and brain injury Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) programs that have received approval for Appendix K amendments to accommodate the needs of participants receiving services and the needs of providers during this pandemic.

To date, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has approved Appendix K changes to 1915(c) HCBS waivers in 42 States that provide services and supports to seniors and people with disabilities. More than half of the States are permitting providers to conduct virtual assessments and person-centered planning meetings, modifying processes for level-of-care evaluations, extending reassessment and re-evaluation dates, and modifying the person-centered planning process.

Information contained in this issue is also posted on NASHIA's website. If you have information to share with regard to your State's actions regarding programs and services for individuals with brain injury during this COVID-19 pandemic, please send to publicpolicy@nashia.org. The next issue will feature resources for individuals with brain injury and their families. Meanwhile, we wish you to stay safe and well.
CDC Provides Guidance for Re-opening Offices and for Service Providers

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued new guidance with regard to opening offices. Updated strategies and recommendations for employers responding to COVID-19, including those seeking to resume normal or phased business operations include:

- Conducting daily health checks
- Conducting a hazard assessment of the workplace
- Encouraging employees to wear cloth face coverings in the workplace
- Implementing policies and practices for social distancing in the workplace
- Improving the building ventilation system
- Replace high-touch communal items, such as coffee pots, water coolers, and bulk snacks, with alternatives such as pre-packaged, single-serving items.

CDC has also published new resources for people with disabilities and providers offering services, which are also posted on the NASHIA website:

- Preparing for COVID-19: Long-term Care Facilities, Nursing Homes
- Guidance for Direct Service Providers
- Guidance for Group Homes for Individuals with Disabilities
- Guidance for Direct Service Providers, Caregivers, Parents, and People with Developmental and Behavioral Disorders
- People with Developmental and Behavioral Disorders

In addition, CDC has developed recommendations for homelessness service systems and providers.

State Policies

Reopening Information for Brain Injury Programs

- COVID-19 Guidance for Re-Opening In-Person Community Support, Work Support, and Career Planning Services (Maine Information for Developmental Disability and Brain Injury Programs), May 21, 2020

Other State Policies and Guidance Added to the NASHIA Website

- Guidance for Home Health Aide and Personal Care Aide Training Programs, June 1, 2020 (NY)
- SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #23: NC Innovations and NC TBI Waivers Community-Based Services (HCBS) Flexibilities for Waiver Beneficiaries Enrolled in 1915(c) HCBS Waivers, March 27, 2020
- COVID-19 Information & Programmatic Guidance for Home-Based Services (VT),
March 17, 2020

- Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver Providers Precautions Memo (WV), March 13, 2020

Emergency Preparedness and Response for HCBS 1915(c) Waivers

Appendix K is a standalone appendix that may be used by States to request an amendment to an approved 1915(c) Home and Community Based (HCBS) waiver to include actions that a State can take under the existing Section 1915(c) HCBS waiver authority in order to respond to an emergency. The appendix may be completed retroactively as needed by the State. (Other activities may require the use of various other authorities, such as the Section 1115 demonstrations or the Section 1135 authorities.) Click here to view State waiver applications for all 1915(c) HCBS waiver programs providing services and supports to seniors and persons with disabilities.

Approved Appendix K that impact brain injury HCBS waivers are listed below. Click on the State to review the application as submitted.

- **Colorado Appendix K, Combined** (Elderly, Blind and Disabled (HCBS-EBD); Community Mental Health Supports (HCBS-CMHS); Brain Injury (HCBS-BI); Spinal Cord Injury (HCBS-SCI); Supported Living Services (HCBS-SLS); Children’s Home and Community Based Services (CHCBS); Children with Life Limiting Illness (HCBS-CLLI); Children’s Extensive Supports (HCBS-CES)

- **Colorado Appendix K Amendment, Combined** (Elderly, Blind and Disabled; Community Mental Health Supports; Brain Injury; Spinal Cord Injury; Supported Living Services; Children’s HCBS; Children with Life Limiting Illness; Children’s Extensive Supports)

- **Connecticut** Appendix K, Acquired Brain Injury

- **Illinois Appendix K, Combined** (Persons who are Elderly; Persons with Disabilities; Persons with HIV/AIDS; Persons who are Medically Fragile, Technology Dependent; Supportive Living Program; Adults with Developmental Disabilities; Support Waiver for Children and Young Adults with Developmental Disabilities (CSW); Residential Waiver for Children and Young Adults with Developmental Disabilities (CRW)

- **Indiana Appendix K, Combined** (Aged & Disabled (A&D) and Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver (TBI)

- **Iowa Appendix K, Combined** (Children’s Mental Health Waiver; Iowa HCBS AIDS Waiver; Iowa HCBS Elderly Waiver; Iowa HCBS Intellectual Disabilities Waiver; Iowa HCBS Waiver for Persons w/Physical Disabilities; Iowa HCBS -- Brain Injury (BI) Waiver; Iowa HCBS Health and Disability Waiver)

- **Kansas Appendix K, Combined** (Autism, Brain Injury, Frail Elderly, Intellectual & Developmental Disability; Physical Disability; Serious Emotional Disturbance; Technology Assisted)

- **Kentucky Appendix K, Combined** (Acquired Brain Injury/ Acquired Brain Injury Long Term Care/Supports for Community Living/Michelle P Waiver/Home and Community Based Waiver/Model II Waiver)
- **Maine Appendix K, Combined** (HCBS for Members Brain Injury; the Elderly and for Adults with Disabilities; HCBS for Adults with Other Related Conditions; HCBS for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder; and the Support Services for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder)

- **Maryland Appendix K, Combined** (Waiver for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder; Waiver for Adults with Brain Injury; Home and Community Based Options Waiver; Model Waiver for Fragile Children (Model Waiver); and Medical Day Care Services Waiver)

- **Massachusetts Appendix K, Combined** (Frail Elder Waiver (FEW); Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Waiver; MFP – Community Living (MFP-CL) Waiver; MFP – Residential Supports (MFP-RS) Waiver; Acquired Brain Injury with Residential Habilitation (ABI-RH) Waiver; Acquired Brain Injury Non-residential Habilitation (ABI-N) Waiver; Community Living Waiver (DDS-CL); Intensive Supports Waiver (DDS-IS); Adult Supports Waiver (DDS-AS); Children’s Autism Spectrum Disorder Waiver)

- **Minnesota Appendix K, Combined** (Brain Injury (BI) Waiver, Community Alternative Care (CAC), Community Access for Disability Inclusion (CADI), Developmental Disabilities (DD), and Elderly Waiver (EW))

- **Minnesota Appendix K (2), Combined** (Brain Injury (BI) Waiver, Community Alternative Care (CAC), Community Access for Disability Inclusion (CADI), Developmental Disabilities (DD), and Elderly Waiver (EW))

- **Minnesota Appendix K (3), Combined** (Brain Injury (BI) Waiver, Community Access for Disability Inclusion (CADI), and Elderly Waiver (EW))

- **Mississippi Appendix K** (Traumatic Brain Injury/Spinal Cord Injury Waiver)

- **Nebraska Appendix K** Traumatic Brain Injury

- **New Hampshire Appendix K, Combined** (In Home Support Waiver; Developmental Disabilities Waiver; Acquired Brain Disorder Waiver; Choices for Independence Waiver for Elderly and Chronically Ill)

- **New York Appendix K Combined** (Nursing Home Transition and Diversion (NHTD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI))

- **North Carolina Appendix K** NC TBI Waiver

- **South Carolina Appendix K, Combined** (Intellectually Disabled and Related Disabilities Waiver (ID/RD), Community Supports (CS), Head and Spinal Cord Injury (HASCi))

- **Utah Appendix K, Combined** (Utah Community Supports Waiver; Aging Waiver; Acquired Brain Injury Waiver; Physical Disabilities Waiver; New Choices Waiver; Medically Complex Children's Waiver; Technology Dependent Waiver)

- **West Virginia Appendix K** Traumatic Brain Injury Disability Waiver
The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators assists State government in promoting partnerships and building systems to meet the needs of individuals with brain injuries and their families.