
Early Learning & Human Services Committee

HB 1344

Brief Description: Increasing access to respite care for those with intellectual or developmental disabilities and their caregivers.

Sponsors: Representatives Barnard, Cortes, Dufault, Couture, Farivar, Reed, Hill, Caldier, Taylor, Pollet, Nance, Gregerson and Callan.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires the Department of Social and Health Services Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) to submit a waiver amendment to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to add respite care to the list of aggregate services available under the Basic Plus waiver and the Children's Intensive In-Home Behavioral Support waiver.
- Requires the DDA to update the waivers to add respite care to aggregate services immediately upon CMS approval.

Hearing Date: 1/29/25

Staff: Omeara Harrington (786-7136).

Background:

Home and Community-Based Services Waivers.

The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) assists individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to obtain services and support based on individual preferences, capabilities, and needs. While some DDA clients live in residential habilitation centers, an institutional setting, most clients live in

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the community. Home and community-based services waivers allow clients who live in community settings to receive optional services at the same level as they would receive in an institutional setting.

The DDA offers services under five waivers: Core, Basic Plus, Community Protection, Individual and Family Services, and Children's Intensive In-Home Behavioral Support (CIIBS). The waiver services provided to DDA clients are designed to promote everyday activities, routines, and relationships, and may include services targeted at community integration, support services provided by contracted professionals, caregiving, and equipment, supplies, and other specialized services.

The Basic Plus waiver serves DDA clients of all ages. Services are provided in the client's own home, in an adult family home, or an adult residential center. The CIIBS waiver supports youth with challenging behaviors. In addition to other waiver eligibility criteria, to be eligible for CIIBS services, the family must agree to participate in the program, and the child must:

- be under the age of 21;
- have an assessed acuity score that indicates that the child's behavior puts the child or family at risk or is very likely to require an out-of-home placement; and
- reside in his or her family home or be in an out-of-home placement.

In addition to specified services and supports for which a DDA client is assessed and approved for a certain number of hours, the Basic Plus and CIIBS waivers also offer service clusters subject to specified dollar limits. Under the Basic Plus waiver, these are called “aggregate services.”

Respite Care.

Respite care is short-term intermittent care to provide relief for a person who lives with a DDA client and is their primary care provider, whether paid or unpaid. For certain waivers, including the Basic Plus and CIIBS waivers, the client is assessed by the DDA and authorized for a maximum number of respite hours.

Summary of Bill:

By September 1, 2025, the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) must submit a waiver amendment to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to add respite care to the list of aggregate services available under the Basic Plus waiver and the Children's Intensive In-Home Behavioral Support (CIIBS) waiver. For purposes of the CIIBS waiver "aggregate services" refers to the service cluster that most closely resembles the list of aggregate services under the Basic Plus waiver. Upon the approval from the CMS, the DDA must immediately update the Basic Plus and CIIBS waivers to include respite care as an aggregate service.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 21, 2025.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.