



COMMISSIONER
Chris Traylor

June 27, 2011

To: Adult Foster Care Providers
Assisted Living/Residential Care Services Providers
Community Based Alternatives Providers
Consumer Directed Services Agencies
Consumer Managed Personal Attendant Services Providers
Day Activity and Health Services Providers
Emergency Response Services Providers
Home Delivered Meals Providers
Primary Home Care Providers
Transition Assistance Services Providers

Subject: Community Services Information Letter No. 11-73
Expansion of STAR+PLUS Service Areas

Effective September 1, 2011, the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) is expanding the STAR+PLUS program in the existing service areas and creating a new service area. The current STAR+PLUS service areas are Harris, Harris Expansion, Bexar, Nueces, and Travis. As described in [Information Letter 11-08, Expansion of the STAR+PLUS Program into Contiguous STAR+PLUS Service Areas](#), the STAR+PLUS program expansion includes combining the Harris and Harris Expansion counties into one service area, which will be referred to as the Harris service area, and adding a new service area, which will be referred to as the Jefferson service area.

The expansion counties in the existing STAR+PLUS service areas are as follows:

- Harris service area: Austin, Matagorda and Wharton counties;
- Bexar service area: Bandera county;
- Nueces service area: Brooks, Goliad, Karnes, Kenedy and Live Oak counties; and
- Travis service area: Fayette county.

The new Jefferson service area consists of the following counties: Chambers, Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Newton, Orange, Polk, San Jacinto, Tyler, and Walker.

The Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) Long-term Services and Supports (LTSS) providers affected by the expansion of STAR+PLUS are those contracted to provide services through the Community Based Alternatives (CBA) 1915(c) Nursing Facility Waiver "CBA Waiver," Day Activity and Health Services (DAHS), Primary Home Care (PHC), Consumer Managed Personal Attendant Services (CMPAS) and Consumer Directed Services (CDS).

CBA Waiver Contracts

The CBA Waiver will no longer operate in the STAR+PLUS expansion counties. This letter provides official notice that DADS will cancel the STAR+PLUS counties on existing CBA waiver contracts. If a contract covers only the STAR+PLUS counties referenced above, then the entire contract may be cancelled. Contracts which are affected include: CBA Home and Community Support Services, CDS for CBA, CBA Transition Assistance Services (TAS), CBA Assisted Living/Residential Care Services (AL/RCS), CBA Adult Foster Care (AFC), CBA Home Delivered Meals (HDM) and CBA Emergency Response Services (ERS). The cancellations will be effective August 31, 2011, one day prior to the expected operational start date of the STAR+PLUS expansion.

Providers should anticipate receiving notice of CBA Waiver contract cancellations or deletion of affected counties via mail, not later than July 15, 2011. If notice has not been received by that date, please contact your contract manager.

DAHS and PHC Contracts

DADS can continue to administer PHC, Community Attendant Services (CAS), and Title XIX DAHS services to full Medicaid recipients in STAR+PLUS service areas if the individuals are unable to access those services through the STAR+PLUS program; therefore, DADS will not cancel the STAR+PLUS counties on existing PHC and DAHS contracts.

Title XX Services

The continuation of Title XX services will not be affected by the STAR+PLUS expansion. The following DADS programs will continue to provide Title XX services in the STAR+PLUS expansion areas including: DAHS, PHC, CMPAS, HDM, ERS, CAS, and Family Care (FC). DADS will continue to provide CDS for CAS and CDS for FC as Title XX services.

CMPAS providers will be able to deliver and receive payment for CMPAS individuals who are not enrolled in the STAR+PLUS program. Individuals receiving CMPAS **at the time of the expansion** whose spouses are their paid attendants may choose to remain in CMPAS and will not be enrolled in the STAR+PLUS program.

Enrollment with STAR+PLUS Managed Care Organizations (MCOs)

Any DADS provider wishing to enroll with a STAR+PLUS MCO may want to consider obtaining a contract with each of the STAR+PLUS MCOs. The MCOs operating in the Harris, Bexar, Nueces, and Travis service areas are Amerigroup, Evercare, Molina and Superior Health Plan. Please refer to [Information Letter No. 11-08](#), Expansion of the STAR+PLUS Program into contiguous STAR+PLUS Service Areas, for contact information.

DADS LTSS providers that have contracted with one or more of the STAR+PLUS MCOs are encouraged to give the names of the STAR+PLUS MCOs that they contracted with to their current consumers in case consumers wish to remain with the provider. **This communication must be informational only and must not in any way limit the individual's right to choose a different MCO if desired.**

Information Letter No. 11-73
June 27, 2011
Page 3

STAR+PLUS Program Contact Information

The following telephone and web information is provided for your assistance.

Contact the Community Services Policy Line at (512) 438-3015 for questions about IL 11-73.

Contact Community Services Contracts voice mail at (512) 438-3550 for questions about DADS contracts.

Contact Rhonda Pratt via email at rhonda.pratt@dads.state.tx.us or telephone at (512) 438-5813 for questions about DADS components of the STAR+PLUS initiative.

Refer to the following HHSC website for an overview of STAR+PLUS:
<http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/starplus/Overview.htm#top>.

Refer to the following HHSC website for information regarding this STAR+PLUS expansion:
<http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/medicaid/CCES.shtml>

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Bill Campbell
Section Manager
Community Services Contracts

BC:ps