

Connecticut Medicaid Substance Use Disorder Demonstration Waiver

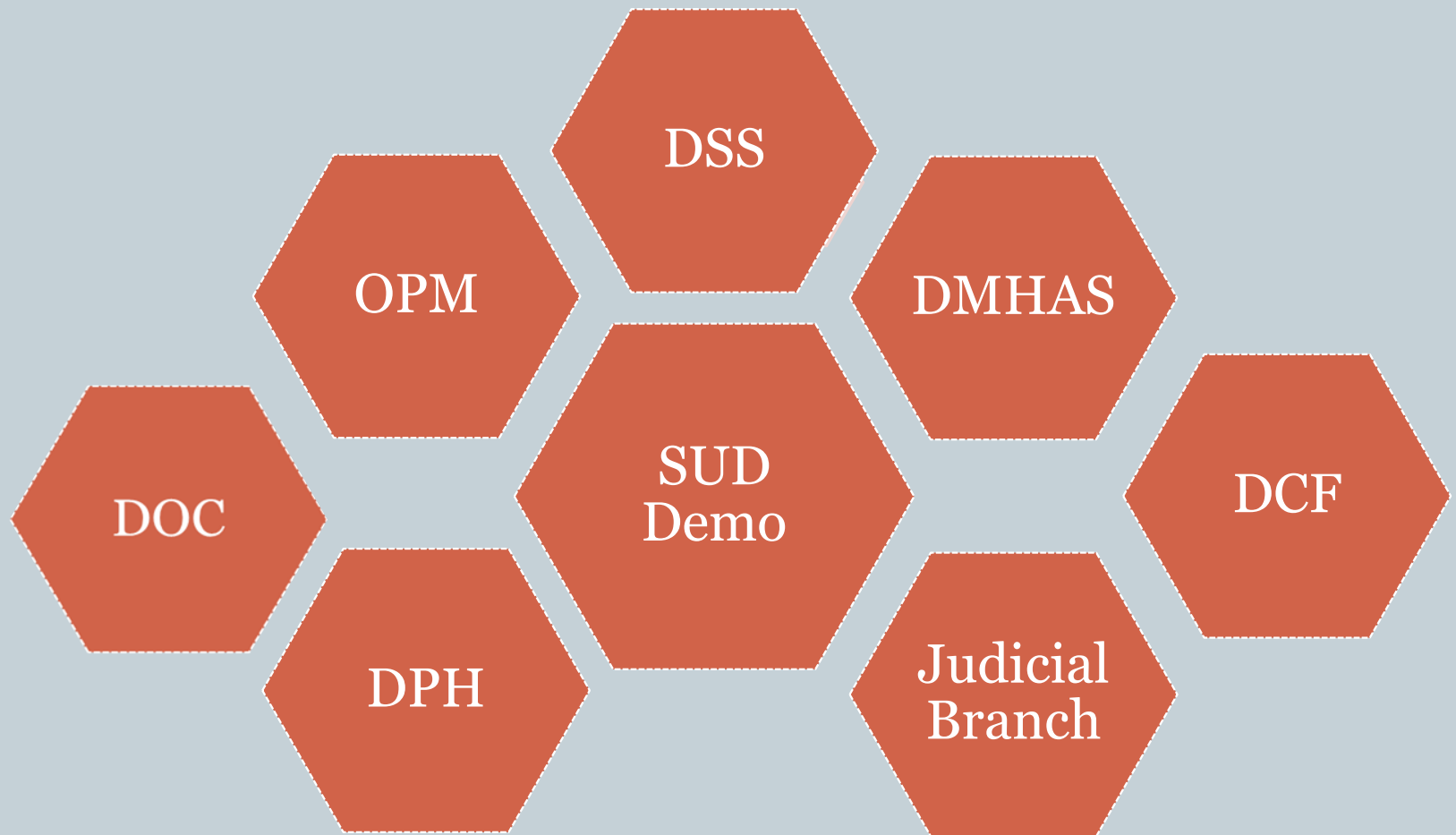


AUGUST 2022

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
JUDICIAL BRANCH
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
OFFICE OF POLICY MANAGEMENT**

State Agency Collaboration

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Background and Purpose of SUD Demo Waiver

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- As part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' effort to combat the ongoing opioid crisis, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) created an opportunity under the authority of section 1115(a) of the Social Security Act for states to demonstrate and test flexibilities to improve the substance use disorder (SUD) service system for beneficiaries.
- The purpose of this waiver is to allow coverage of residential and inpatient SUD services under HUSKY Health that have previously been excluded due to longstanding federal policies.
- DSS has been working in close consultation and collaboration with our state agency partners at DMHAS, DCF, DOC, Judicial Branch, DPH, and OPM in designing this Demonstration. Additional partners include Mercer, Advanced Behavioral Health (ABH) and Beacon Health Options.
- Connecticut received CMS approval of the waiver on April 14, 2022 with a Demonstration approval period through March 2027.

State Objectives

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- The intent of this Demonstration is to provide critical access to a full array of SUD treatment services for Connecticut HUSKY Health members and improve the delivery system for these services to provide more coordinated and comprehensive SUD treatment.
- With first-time federal funding of these treatment services, the state is reinvesting in the services system by way of increased provider payment rates and provider standards to improve the quality of care all treatment recipients receive.

State Objectives Continued

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- The goals and objectives for this Demonstration include:
 - Increased rates of identification, initiation and engagement in treatment for opioid use disorder (OUD) and other SUDs;
 - Increased adherence to and retention in treatment for OUD and other SUDs;
 - Reductions in overdose deaths, particularly those due to opioids;
 - Reduced utilization of emergency departments and inpatient hospital settings for OUD and other SUD treatment where the utilization is preventable or medically inappropriate through improved access to other continuum of care services;
 - Fewer readmissions to the same or higher level of care where readmissions are preventable or medically inappropriate for OUD and other SUDs; and
 - Improved access to care for physical health conditions among beneficiaries with OUD and other SUDs.

Eligibility

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- This Demonstration removed Medicaid payment barriers for SUD residential and inpatient treatment, ensuring critical access for all coverage groups:
 - HUSKY A—Medicaid for children, teens, parents, relative caregivers and pregnant women;
 - HUSKY B—Children’s Health Insurance Program for children and teens up to age 19;
 - HUSKY C—Medicaid for adults 65 and older and adults with disabilities, including long-term services and supports and Medicaid for Employees with Disabilities;
 - HUSKY D—Medicaid for low-income adults without dependent children.

Key Milestones

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1. Access to critical levels of care for OUD and other SUDs
2. Widespread use of evidence-based, SUD-specific patient placement criteria
3. Use of nationally recognized, evidence-based, SUD program standards to set residential treatment provider qualifications
4. Sufficient provider capacity at each level of care, including MAT
5. Implementation of comprehensive treatment and prevention strategies to address opioid misuse and OUD
6. Improved care coordination and transitions between levels of care

Impact to Members

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- Improved access to SUD residential and outpatient services
- Improved treatment services through higher clinical standards
- Focus on key healthcare outcomes related to SUD:
 - Follow up after emergency room visits to make sure someone entered treatment
 - Follow up after hospitalization to make sure someone connects to the next level of care
- Access to Medication for Addiction Treatment

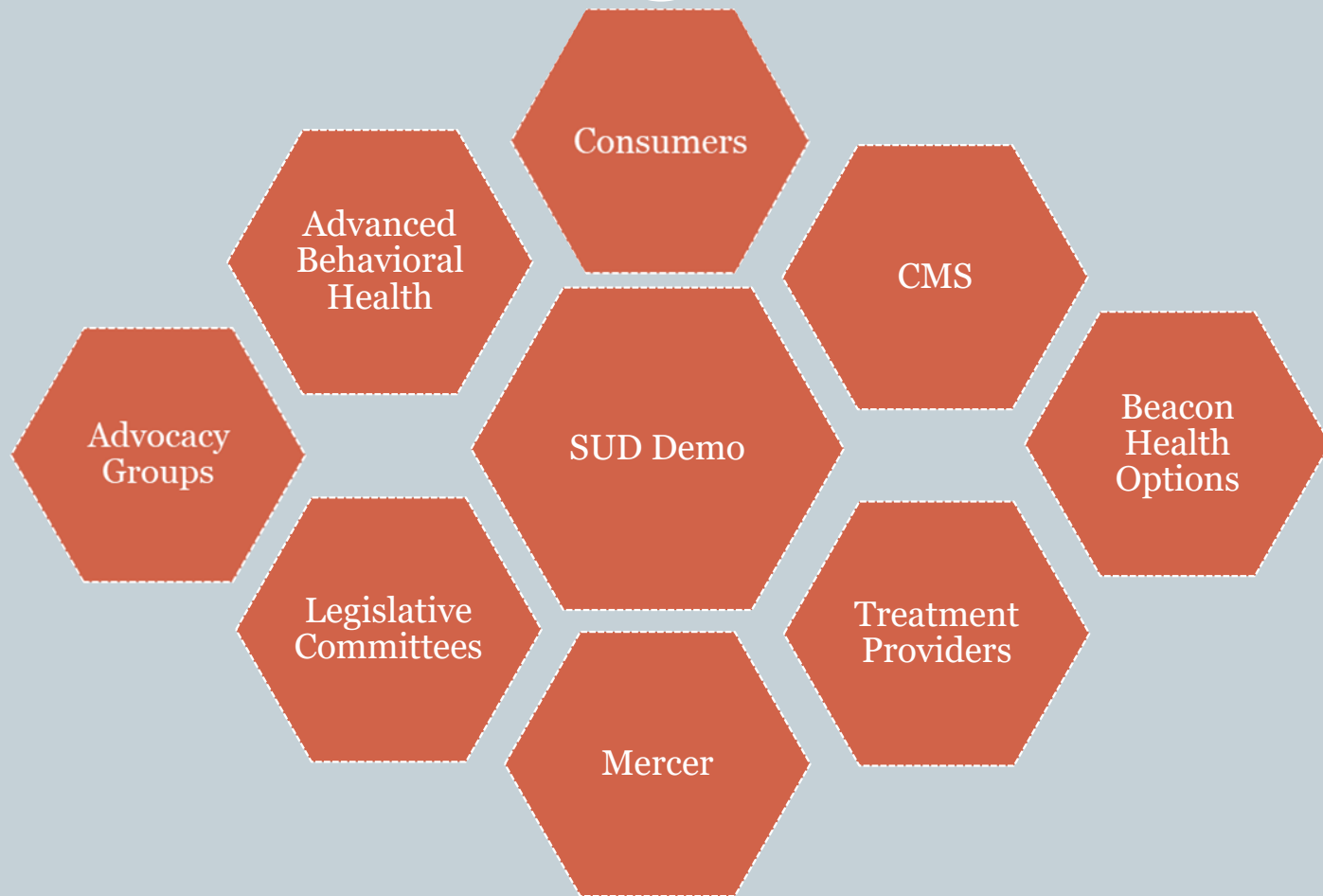
Public Hearings

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- DSS has fulfilled all notice and comment requirements under federal and state law, including:
 - A written comment period, from February 2 through March 4, 2022
 - Two public hearings, which were held on February 10 and February 18, 2022
- Public comments and our agency response to these comments are available on our webpage.

Additional Collaboration

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ASAM Certification Development and Monitoring

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ASAM Certification Process

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Adoption of ASAM Standards

- Under the 1115 SUD Demonstration Waiver and corresponding Medicaid SPA, Connecticut will expand services to provide a complete array of services, including residential SUD services
- Connecticut will utilize placement criteria and program standards consistent with the latest edition of the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria.

Payment Structure

- To qualify for the fee-for-service structure implemented under this waiver, participating providers must demonstrate that they are operating in compliance with the quality standards outlined by the ASAM criteria.
- This compliance will be assessed utilizing provisional and full certification processes

Types of ASAM Certification

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Provisional Certification

- The State of Connecticut has elected to provide a 24-month provisional certification period for the adoption of the ASAM criteria.
- This period commenced on 4/15/2022 for CVH and 6/1/2022 for community residential providers.

Full Certification

- Full Certification will occur once providers successfully demonstrate compliance with the ASAM criteria for each level of care and associated programs they operate. Full certification status will last for three years from the date of approval.

Why Provisional Certification?

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Different Adoption Stages

- Recognizing that behavioral health providers participating in the Connecticut 11115 Residential SUD Waiver are in different ASAM criteria adoption process stages, we want to allow time for full adoption of the standards.

Provider Education

- This process provides agencies with an opportunity to assess their current compliance with the ASAM standards and to identify areas where improvement is required for full certification.

State Agency Support

- This information will also help the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Department of Children and Families support community providers over the 24-month certification process.

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Additional Resources

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- Information about this Demonstration is posted to the DSS website at this link: <https://ct.gov/dss/SUD1115>
- Subscribe to updates on this Demonstration

Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver for Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment

Overview

Goals and Milestones

Meeting Schedule

Related Resources

Overview

Submission to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) - Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver

[Click this link to subscribe to updates regarding this project.](#)

Thank you!

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QUESTIONS

