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DAVE JEPPESEN – Director

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & WELFARE

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DIVISION OF MEDICAID
Post Office Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0009

February 2, 2022

Dear Participants,

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and Liberty Healthcare need your help. The Department is developing a new resource allocation model. The Department needs to start using a new assessment tool for the new model. The Scales of Independent Behavior – Revised is the tool we use now. It is also called the SIB-R. The Department will start using the Supports Intensity Scale – Adult on May 1, 2022. It is also called the SIS-A.

We need your help to make sure Liberty assessors are ready to use the SIS-A assessment. We are asking for volunteers to complete a practice SIS-A assessment.

Why do we need your help with Practice SIS-A Assessments?

Liberty assessors need to be certified to use the SIS-A assessment. Each assessor needs to complete practice SIS-A assessments to be certified. You can help by volunteering to complete a practice SIS-A.

Your participation will help make sure Liberty assessors are ready to use the SIS-A. It will also let you see what the SIS-A is like before the new assessment process starts.

Will the Practice SIS-A replace my annual assessment?

The practice SIS-A will not replace your annual assessment – it will only be used to help the Liberty assessor practice. It will not be used to determine your eligibility. It will not be used to determine your annual budget. You will not receive a score or results at the end of the assessment. You will not be able to appeal the practice SIS-A.

How much time will the practice SIS-A take?

Liberty assessors estimate it will take at least 3 hours to complete a practice SIS-A. Some assessments may take longer. It will be helpful if you can plan for between 3 and 5 hours to complete the practice SIS-A.

How many people will need to answer questions about me?

The SIS-A requires two respondents. These people should know you well. You should also be present to answer questions about yourself.

Who can get paid for the time they spend on this?

If you require support during the practice SIS-A, the person who provides your support can be paid to support you during the practice SIS-A. They can also be a respondent if they know about your support needs.

When the Department implements the new model, Targeted Service Coordinators (TSC) and Support Brokers (SB) can be paid to be one of your respondents. For the practice SIS-A, the Department can pay your TSC or SB to be a respondent. The payment would be \$100.

Other people can be paid to be a respondent for the practice SIS-A. Someone who is not your TSC or SB and who is not providing paid support during the assessment can be paid to be one of your respondents. The payment would be \$100. This is only for the practice SIS-A. When the Department implements the new model, only your TSC or SB and a person providing paid support during the assessment can be paid as a respondent.

If you volunteer to take a practice SIS-A, you will be entered into a drawing and you could win a \$500 gift card. Only one person will win the gift card but everyone who volunteers will have the same chance.

How will the information about me be used?

Because this is a practice SIS-A, the information will only be used to help the Liberty assessor practice. The information will not be used to determine your eligibility for the program. It will not be used to determine your annual budget. The information will not be kept or stored. The information will only be used to help the Liberty assessor practice.

Will I still have to do a SIS-A when the new resource allocation model starts?

When the new resource allocation model is implemented you will receive a full SIS-A assessment, even if you volunteer to help us by doing a practice SIS-A. By volunteering to complete a practice SIS-A, you know what the SIS-A will be like when it is implemented.

What if I completed a practice SIS-A in the past?

You can still complete a practice SIS-A now even if you completed one before. Completing another practice SIS-A would really help us out and would be very appreciated. And if you know another adult that wants to complete a practice SIS-A you can let them know they can volunteer as well by contacting your Department Care Manager or Liberty.

Do I have to complete a practice SIS-A?

No. No one will be required to complete a practice SIS-A. We would really appreciate your help and encourage you to consider completing a practice SIS-A. And you will still need to complete a SIS-A assessment when the Department is ready to implement the new resource allocation model.

How do I volunteer?

You can call Liberty and tell them you want to volunteer. If you live in the Boise area, you can call (208) 258-7980. If you live anywhere else in Idaho, you can call (877) 305-3469 at no cost.

What happens next?

- Liberty will contact you to set up a meeting to complete a practice SIS A.
- Liberty will explain what you will need to do and who will need to be with you at this meeting.
- Liberty will also let you know if your assessment will be in person or done virtually. If your assessment is done in person, Liberty will let you know what COVID precautions will need to be followed, such as masks and distancing.

What if I have questions?

You may contact the Department at (844) 793-1286 or by email at kw@dhw.idaho.gov.

You can also visit the Department's My Choice Matters website at MyChoiceMatters.idaho.gov. The My Choice Matters website is specific to the KW

Lawsuit. It contains a lot of information about the KW Lawsuit and the upcoming changes.

You may also contact the lawyers who represent you in the KW Lawsuit:

Ritchie Eppink
American Civil Liberties Union
P.O. Box 1897
Boise, Idaho 83701
(208) 344-9750 extension 1202
reppink@acluidaho.org
www.ourhealthandwelfare.org

James Piotrowski
Piotrowski Durand, PLLC
P.O. Box 2864
Boise, Idaho 83701
(208) 331-9200
james@idunionlaw.com

Thank you for your help in taking the practice SIS-A assessment.

Sincerely,



JULIET CHARRON
Administrator