

DRAFT

July, 2009

Dear family member or responsible party,

We are writing to tell you about some changes to group homes for children (level III and IV) that are occurring due to changes to the funding made by the General Assembly as well as a change in direction by the Department of Health and Human Services. Your child may be affected by these changes. We would encourage you to talk with your case manager or the staff at the group home if you have questions. And it is important to note that these are the latest changes as of XXXX

Most states have found that the treatment in group homes (level III and IV) are not resulting in good outcomes- for children or for families. The movement is to fund treatments that work, like intensive services in the home, or in a therapeutic foster home. Our state is moving towards these best practices.

This notice will communicate the options for your child for planning purposes.

- Level III group homes will be a short term option – only up to 120 days maximum
- Children may still go for a short time to Level III or IV if they are “stepping down” in the level of care they need from one that is more intensive, like a psychiatric residential treatment facility or an inpatient setting, like a hospital.
- If your child has tried other options, like in home services like multisystemic therapy, or intensive in home, and has not done well, he/she may be admitted to Level III or IV group homes on a short term basis (up to 120 days). But first all other options must be reviewed in deciding that this is the right level of care for your child.
- We expect that many children will step down from Level III and IV to the in-home options such as therapeutic foster care options, intensive in home, and multisystemic therapy. We expect that some children will need extra help in the home – wraparound services, and families may need extra breaks through respite care.
- Children may still have periods of crisis, so child crisis facility centers are being developed
- We encourage everyone to take advantage of classes and support groups that may exist in your area- such as the National Alliance on Mental Illness psychoeducational classes for families called Basics, and support groups for families- all free.

It is also important to know that all of the processes that must occur to obtain a placement will continue- the level of care must be authorized by Value Options, the Child and

Family Team must agree that this is an appropriate placement, and the family must be involved in this process, and to be an active part of your child's treatment.

Thank you for your help in making some of these upcoming changes successful by your full participation in your child's treatment planning. We will keep you updated on any further changes as they occur.

Sincerely,

Xxx

F drive- RecipientletterlevelIII07-09