

THE UNBEARABLE LIGHTNESS OF WAIVERS

Understanding the Blueprint
Behind HCBS Waivers

WHO WE ARE

THE BRAINS BEHIND THE BUILD



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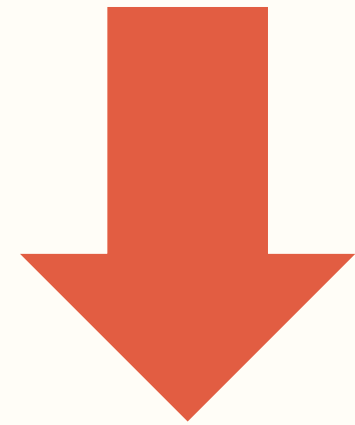
**How comfortable would you be opening
a 1915(c) waiver document today?**

- 1 - PLEASE don't make me do that**
- 2 - I could probably find something with enough time**
- 3 - I know my way around**
- 4 - I'm the person people call**

TODAY'S SESSION

Changing our relationship to the
waivers

Those 300-page CMS documents
someone at the state deals with



This is the blueprint for the system,
and I need to know how to use it



I WILL WALK AWAY TODAY KNOWING



- The waiver document is relevant to my work
- I can navigate it
- I know what questions it can answer
- I know where to look when guidance doesn't make sense
- I have a foundation for understanding system change

Waiver Literacy Matters

**Significant Medicaid reform is
unavoidable**

**Understanding the system
promotes meaningful stakeholder
engagement**



The Waiver Blueprint

SITE PLAN

Who is the system built for?
Target populations, LOC, Eligibility

DESIGN SPECS

What services are authorized?
Definitions, limits, providers

COST + MATERIALS

How is it funded/constrained?
Rates, utilization, cost sharing,
cost neutrality

BUILDING CODE

What standards must the design
meet?
Federal requirements, assurances,
statute, regulation, oversight

CHANGE ORDERS

How does the blueprint evolve?
Amendments, renewals,
advocacy

Passing Inspection

Waiver Assurances

Administrative Authority

State Medicaid Agency is ultimately accountable

Level of Care

Participants must meet institutional LOC

Qualified Providers

Providers must meet required qualifications

Service Plan

Services must follow a person-centered plan

Health & Welfare

The State must protect participants from harm

Financial Accountability

Payments must be authorized, accurate, and accountable

Five Questions the Waiver Answers

1

**Who is
Eligible?**

2

**How is
eligibility
determined?**

3

**How is case
management
provided and
funded?**

4

**What
services are
available?**

5

**Who can
provide
services?**

BLUEPRINT CHALLENGE

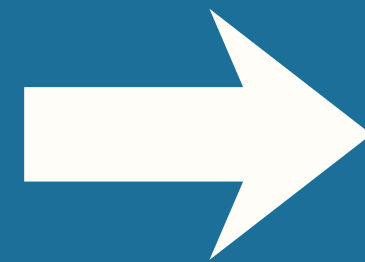
A PRACTICAL EXERCISE

The Assignment

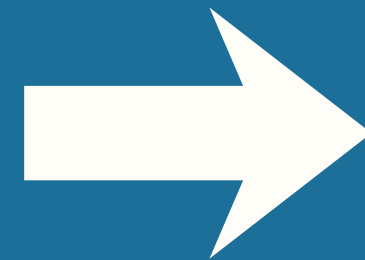
- Pick a waiver
- Find the answer
- You have seven minutes



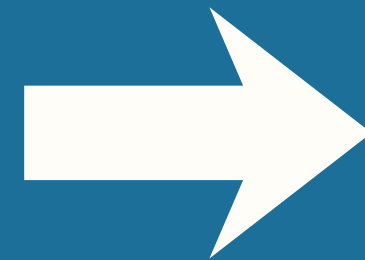
REPORT OUT



Where did you look?



What did you learn?



Did anything surprise you?



How comfortable would you be opening a 1915(c) waiver document today to answer a question about your program?

- 1 - PLEASE don't make me do that**
- 2 - I could probably find something with enough time**
- 3 - I know my way around**
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If you answered



1

Find It.

- Open your waiver
- Find Appendix B
- Find a service in Appendix C
- Find the provider qualifications
- Find one thing you didn't know



2

Use It.

- Ask: “What does the waiver say?”
- Look beyond memos and trainings
- Use the waiver to answer operational questions
- Notice when guidance and waiver language don't align
- Compare with other state waivers



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Influence It.

- Bring the waiver into team discussions
- Teach others to navigate it
- Check guidance against the waiver
- Engage in amendments and public comment



Final Thoughts & Questions



REACH US



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