



STATE OF MARYLAND

Arlene F. Lee
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Secretary

**Information Sheet for Families and Youth about Changes to the
Care Management Entity (CME) in Maryland
October 1, 2015**

Currently, the Governor's Office for Children, on behalf of the Maryland Children's Cabinet, has a contract with a Care Management Entity (CME) organization - Maryland Choices, LLC - to serve as an entry point for specific populations of children, youth and families with intensive needs for care coordination using a Wraparound delivery model.

As part of a sustainability plan for a population of youth who were served by the CME, the 1915(c) PRTF Waiver, and as part of health care reform in Maryland, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) successfully amended the Maryland Medicaid State Plan to allow for youth who met certain eligibility and financial criteria to be served by regional Care Coordination Organizations (CCOs) that also utilize a similar service delivery model. This program is called Targeted Case Management (TCM).

In order to streamline access to care coordination, the two programs are being integrated. As part of this integration, on October 1, 2015, the CME will suspend enrollments.

What does the suspension of enrollments mean for families who are already being served by Maryland Choices?

Services will continue to be available for eligible children, subject to funding and program requirements. Youth currently enrolled in the CME will continue to be served by the CME throughout the remainder of their eligibility, but there is no guarantee of service delivery in the CME beyond June 30, 2016. Youth with Medicaid will have the choice to be referred to a CCO. Youth with Medicaid who are expected to discharge from the CME after June 30, 2016 may choose to transfer to a CCO immediately. While the CCOs utilize a similar service delivery model, there may be some differences in the services that families are able to access. Youth with private insurance or who are not eligible for Medicaid will continue to work with the CME to identify other natural and formal supports to meet their needs. All families will be offered a choice in deciding the best options that meet their needs.

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The Governor's Office for Children and DHMH's Behavioral Health Administration are working very closely with Maryland Choices to make sure that any families who will be transferred to a CCO will have as smooth a transition as possible.

We know that this is complicated and can be confusing. If you have questions or want help understanding this information, here are some people who can help you:

If you are trying to figure out what the integration means for you, first talk to your care coordinator or a supervisor at Maryland Choices. Your family support partner, if applicable, can also help. If you still have questions, you can call Michael Hawkins; CME Contract Monitor at the Governor's Office for Children, at 410-402-8305 or e-mail him at mhawkins@maryland.gov.

Families who believe they could benefit from care coordination but have not yet been referred for service, should contact their local Core Service Agency in order to determine if they meet eligibility for enrollment in the TCM program. A directory of Core Service Agencies can be found at: <http://www.marylandbehavioralhealth.org/core-service-agency-directory>

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