

Information on Proposed Health Home

In a recent meeting, Director Tracy Plouck and Assistant Deputy Director Angie Bergefurd of the Ohio Department of Mental Health explained the impact of the Medicaid health home proposal for people with severe and persistent mental illness on long-term care services for these individuals. The department last month submitted a [draft Medicaid State Plan Amendment](#) to the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The health home is not a physical structure but is a community behavioral health center that will be paid a fee to develop a care plan for the individual that covers both their physical and behavioral health needs and to work with the individual to obtain services to meet their needs. The Affordable Care Act provides enhanced federal matching funds for those coordination services. Health home services are not the direct provision of care, and health homes will not pay for care delivered by other providers. When a person who is in a health home needs the services of a skilled nursing facility or other long-term care provider, the health home will be expected to develop a relationship with the provider to monitor the individual's whereabouts and the services they are receiving, including assisting with discharge planning. The health home will not be the monitor for long-term care services and supports. The department's intent is to begin the health home program later this year in certain areas of the state, which have not been defined yet, although Cuyahoga County is expected to be one such region. To the extent individuals served by health homes are dually eligible, it is likely that they will be carved out of the state's dual eligibles waiver, at least for a period of time. More information on the health home proposal is available at the [Ohio Department of Mental Health](#).