



## Long-Term Care Regulatory Provider Letter

**Number:** PL 2021-42

**Title:** New Individualized Skills and Socialization Service Coming Soon

**Provider Types:** Deaf Blind with Multiple Disabilities (DBMD), Home and Community-based Services (HCS), Home and Community Support Services Agencies (HCSSA), and Texas Home Living (TxHmL)

**Date Issued:** December 10, 2021

### 1.0 Subject and Purpose

This letter explains the background and provides a brief introduction to the new individualized skills and socialization service. This letter also provides information about what Deaf Blind with Multiple Disabilities (DBMD), Home and Community-based Services (HCS), and Texas Home Living (TxHmL) providers can expect as the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) implements the new individualized skills and socialization service.

### 2.0 Background/History

In 2014, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued regulations governing the settings in which Medicaid home and community based services (HCBS) are provided. To comply with the regulations, HHSC will replace existing day habilitation services in the DBMD, HCS, and TxHmL waiver programs with a new service for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This new, more integrated service is called individualized skills and socialization.

### 3.0 Policy Details & Provider Responsibilities

HHSC will create a new subcategory of Day Activity and Health Services (DAHS) licensure for individualized skills and socialization providers. HHSC will license individualized skills and socialization providers under the current DAHS statute (Chapter 103, Human Resources Code) and establish a special

subchapter of rules specific to these providers within existing DAHS rules<sup>1</sup>. This approach provides robust supports for the individualized skills and socialization providers, such as using existing licensing systems, rules, enforcement processes, and complaint intake processing and resolution systems.

Individualized skills and socialization providers can expect a \$75.00 licensing fee and new rules tailored to the individualized skills and socialization service. HHSC is developing regulatory rules related to the new individualized skills and socialization service and providers will have the opportunity to provide comments on the rules as they move through the rulemaking process.

HHSC will continue to provide information about the individualized skills and socialization service as it becomes available.

#### **4.0 Contact Information**

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact the Policy and Rules Section by email at [LTCRPolicy@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:LTCRPolicy@hhs.texas.gov) or call (512) 438-3161.

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<sup>1</sup> [26 TAC 559](#)