



Dear BCMH Families,

The Children with Medical Handicaps (CMH) program serves hundreds of children under the jurisdiction of the Fairfield Department of Health. There are changes coming to the program that will affect families. On January 30, 2017, Governor Kasich's budget proposal for 2017-2018 was released. If this budget is approved, there will be significant changes made to the CMH program. Bulleted below are some of the changes we know about.

- Children in families with income above the Medicaid limit will continue to receive services as they do today, as long as they are enrolled in BCMH prior to July 1, 2017. They will be grandfathered into the existing program until they age out, or their medical or financial eligibility changes. Anyone who applies for the BCMH program through June 30, 2017, and is not currently eligible for Medicaid, will be also be grandfathered into the existing BCMH program until they age out, or their financial or medical eligibility changes. Also, once current BCMH clients enroll in Medicaid due to a change in financial eligibility, they will remain in Medicaid or the Medicaid BCMH program depending upon their financial eligibility.
- Children enrolled in both BCMH and Medicaid will receive BCMH services solely through their Medicaid health plan, beginning January 1, 2018.
- Ohio Medicaid will create a new program and begin enrolling children in families above the Medicaid income limit beginning January 1, 2018. Medicaid-administered BCMH will cover medically *necessary* services that were covered through the Ohio Department of Health's BCMH program. Financial eligibility will be established at or below 225 percent of the federal poverty level. The Ohio Department of Health will notify anyone who applies for the BCMH program on or after July 1, 2017 that, beginning January 1, 2018, they will be enrolled in the new Medicaid BCMH program.

You can read more about the proposed changes at www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov. On that page there will be a header entitled "2018-2019 Budget." Under that title, you can click on "Children with Medical Handicaps Proposal."

After reading about this matter, you may have questions. You may contact us, but our county agency has no control over these program changes, and you should consider directing your concerns by calling or writing your elected officials. The contact information for Fairfield County Ohio Senate and Ohio House of Representatives is listed below.

Senator Troy Balderson
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square, Ground Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
Phone: (614) 466-8076
<http://ohiosenate.gov/balderson>

Rep. Ron Hood
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Rep. Tim Schaffer
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