

Share your views on Friday, June 24 in Worcester

June 16, 2016

**MetroWest
Center For
Independent Living**

**People with Disabilities
Living in the Community**

PCA Overtime - Public Hearing

The U.S. Department of Labor recently enacted a requirement to pay PCA's overtime. This requirement will cost the state additional money with current policies so MassHealth has proposed some new rules. MassHealth plans to restrict use of overtime by PCAs starting September 1. Unfortunately, these new rules will affect many consumers of PCA services.

Consumers most impacted by these changes use one PCA for more than 40 hours per week, and/or use a PCA(s) who work over 40 hours per week.

Each piece of the proposal has its own complexities and issues - we strongly encourage all PCA users affected to weigh in with your needs, and why these changes might affect you adversely.

Please note that the location for the Worcester hearing has changed. Details are below.

As the state develops its exemption policy and implementation plan-which will be vital if the changes are enacted- it plans to consult a working group. People interested in joining this working group should contact PCA Program Manager Betsy Connell at MassHealth, at Elizabeth.Connell@MassMail.State.MA.US.

See information below on a new MassHealth Public Listening Session scheduled in Boston.

Thank you,

Paul Spooner,
Executive Director

PCA Proposed Regulations - Public Hearing **130 CMR 422.000: Personal Care Services**

When:

Friday, June 24 at 10 a.m.

Where:

Lazare Research Building (*New location!*)
Blais Pavilion
UMass Medical School University Campus
55 Lake Avenue North
Worcester

- MassHealth has just proposed restricting overtime hours that PCAs can work. Here are some of the basic points around this:
- A cap on overtime usage is proposed to start September 1, with PCAs being limited to 40 hours/week work, though the state doesn't anticipate full compliance will be feasible by then.
- An exemption policy will be established.
- PCA overtime is costing the state in the range of \$1 million/week.
- 7,300 consumers used PCAs who work over 40 hours/week.
- Approximately 6,000 PCAs are collecting overtime pay.
- The budget for the PCA program is now \$704 million, of which half is reimbursed by the federal government.

If you cannot attend the hearing in person, you can submit formal comments on the proposed regulations to the Assistant Secretary for MassHealth, EOHHS, One Ashburton Place, Room 1109, Boston, Massachusetts 02108, or e-mail them to masshealthpublicnotice@state.ma.us. E-mailed comments should contain the sender's name, mailing address, and organization or affiliation, if any.

Comments will be accepted through 5:00 p.m. on Friday, July 8, 2016. The proposed regulations - **130 CMR 422.000: Personal Care Services** - are available at [mass.gov website](http://mass.gov) .

Boston Session on PCA Overtime Restrictions (New)

MassHealth Public Listening Session

When:

Monday, June 27 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Where:

21st Floor
One Ashburton Place
Boston

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