



DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES & HOSPITALS

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TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Technical Bulletin Number:	25-02
Date:	November 20, 2024
Subject:	Whole Life Shared Living Arrangement (WLSLA) Service Parameters
Applies to:	All participants, provider agencies, and contractors in the WLSLA service

Purpose:

This bulletin provides background and service information beyond that provided in the Billing Policy Manual to clarify and set parameters for WLSLA and to distinguish it from the standard Shared Living Arrangement (SLA) service.

Background:

Previously under COVID emergency, Enhanced SLA was provided as an option for participants in SLA. Enhanced SLA provided participants the opportunity to participate in community-based activities during the day with their shared living provider. With the wind down of the flexibilities put in place during the pandemic, Enhanced SLA ended as of 6/30/23. The Rate and Payment Methodology Review was completed in 2023 and included Enhanced SLA, but this service had a name change, so the service is now called Whole Life SLA service.

The participant's community involvement goals and the ways in which the WLSLA contractor supports the participant in meeting those goals must be indicated in the Individual Service Plan (ISP). The WLSLA provider agency monitors and documents the regular SLA support as well as the support toward community involvement goals. The WLSLA Contractor agrees to support the participant's goals contained in the ISP and complete notes detailing services provided to the participant.

Information:

- I. In general, a WLSLA contractor must not work in a paid or volunteer job outside the WLSLA (30 hours per week or more):**

By design, WLSLA is a service in which the contractor is available 24/7 to provide support when the participant needs it, in a wholistic way.

However, arrangements in which the contractor works part-time or during hours that are compatible with the participant's support needs will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The participant, contractor, provider agency, and Conflict-Free Case Manager (CFCM)/Independent Facilitator (IF) will work together to complete the WLSLA Exception Form. The CFCM/IF will submit the form to the Coordinator of Integrated Community Services at BHDDH. When a decision is reached, the Coordinator will notify the CFCM/IF.

In WLSLAs in which the contractor works 30 hours per week or more, self-direction is a better alternative than WLSLA.

II. A participant in a WLSLA may work.

Employment services are available to WLSLA participants, and they are encouraged to be employed.

However, if the participant is working 30 hours per week or more, they generally would not need the type of support provided in WLSLA.

If there are circumstances that would make the WLSLA still a good option for a participant working 30 hours per week or more, the WLSLA Exception Form must be submitted as described in the section above.

III. No more than one person may serve as contractor in any WLSLA.

By design, a WLSLA is a wholistic relationship of support between the participant and one WLSLA contractor

IV. A WLSLA contractor is not permitted, under any circumstances, to pay someone else to provide the Whole Life support.

V. A WLSLA contractor may not serve more than two participants at a time.

This restriction preserves the nature of the WLSLA relationship as much as possible but still allows for arrangements in which a close relationship exists between two participants. Both participants need to confirm this choice through their CFCM/IF, and it must be documented in their service plans.

VI. In WLSLA other services can be accessed through the flexible budget, except Community Based Supports.

VII. WLSLA billing does not include transportation to the participant’s workplace or to a “day” program.

Transportation to the participant’s workplace is billed through the Transportation service. All other transportation which supports the participant’s goals is included in WLSLA billing.

VIII. A participant in WLSLA may not attend an adult day health center or receive other “day” services.

IX. The purpose of respite in WLSLA (and SLA) is to provide relief to the contractor. Therefore, respite may not be used to SUPPLEMENT supports the contractor is providing at any given time.

Version Control and Change History:

Version	Effective Date	Rescinded Date	Amendment/Update	Replaces Previous Technical Bulletin
1.0	11/20/24	Current	Original Version	No