

Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Issue Brief

Keep Assessments with Local Providers

Dignity Alliance Massachusetts
info@DignityAllianceMA.org
www.DignityAllianceMA.org

MassHealth proposes to move certain LTSS clinical eligibility assessments out of local community-based providers and into a state-wide assessment entity – a so-called “Public Assessor.”

Massachusetts’ long-term services and supports (LTSS) system received high ranks in *AARP’s 2023 State Scorecard Report*. Our biggest strength is choice of setting and provider. Massachusetts LTSS programs are numerous and diverse and provide **over 222,000 MassHealth members** access to a range of culturally competent and community knowledgeable services and supports across our state.

MassHealth plans a procurement for “Component 2,” a statewide-wide entity to field inquiries through one call center and provide clinical eligibility assessments for a variety of LTSS programs. This proposal carries significant risks of adding great costs and reducing consumer choice.

- Component 2 is likely to drain funding and staff from current community-based organizations, undermining community competency and member choice.
- The parameters of Component 2 are in essence a gold-embossed invitation for a private-equity-like company driven by a bottom line instead of the wellbeing of LTSS consumers.
- There is little support for such a disruption to our LTSS system: current causes of assessment delays will not be corrected by this proposal.
- Better solutions exist to streamline access for MassHealth members.

Why implement such a system-disruptive project with unknown potential costs when high-impact, low-cost changes are possible?

We urge MassHealth to withdraw its plan for Component 2 and focus on implementation of its proposal to improve supports for current LTSS clinical eligibility assessors.
