

Disability Matters Radio Show with Joyce Bender

#Advocacy Matters Segment

June 5, 2018

Electronic Visit Verification

The 21st Century Cures Act mandated that all states use electronic visit verification for Medicaid funded personal care services by January 1, 2019 and home health services by January 1, 2023. If a state does not implement EVV, the state will be subject to an incremental FMAP (federal medical assistance percentage) reduction.

What is EVV? EVV requires an individual to be given a device, like a smart phone, which allows providers to log the time of a personal care visit with the individual.

Many of us in the disability community have concerns about electronic visit verification. We don't oppose the need to streamline or automate timesheets for direct care workers. We appreciate and support a higher level of accountability for providers and Medicaid.

Our concerns focus on the GPS tracking system in the device that will follow the individual when the individual is engaged in activity outside of the home. The device will follow the individual around the community.

The National Council on Independent Living did a community survey and found other problems too. In Alaska, there are reports that timesheets don't match the telephone app and staff forgot to log in and out of the device. Colorado uses multiple entry points: tablet, telephone app, computer, and a telephone. In Georgia, direct support workers are encouraged to use their own smartphone to log in and out.

Many disability advocacy groups are working on this issue, including ADAPT, Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, Disability Rights Pennsylvania, National Disability Rights Network, and the National Council for Independent.

At the end of May, Congress, with bipartisan support, introduced legislation to delay the implementation of EVV by one year to January 1, 2020. The

House bill number is 5912. The Senate bill number is S. 2987. There isn't much time left in this congress to pass this legislation but we are working on delaying implementation.

Links to the House and Senate bills, as well as other information about electronic visit verification can be found on our website at disabilityrightspa.org.