



Memorandum

To: Child Welfare Staff
From: Mary Havick, Deputy Commissioner, Child Welfare
Date: December 10, 2021
Re: Maximum Watchful Oversight (MWO) Child Caring Institution (CCI) Specialized Support Waiver Authorization

Purpose

The Division has instituted an enhanced supplemental rate to be added to the current Room, Board and Watchful Oversight (RBWO), Child Caring Institutions (CCI) contracted rate for the Maximum Watchful Oversight (MWO) program designation. The MWO CCI Specialized Support Waiver Authorization rate structure with assessment and approval process for determining whether a child/youth is applicable is outlined below:

MWO CCI Specialized Support Authorization Waiver Rate Options

1. MWO Rate 193.73 (current)
2. \$193.73 MWO Rate + \$100 CCI Specialized Support Authorization = **total per diem \$293.73**
 - a. Applicable for MWO children/youth who are currently in or to prevent from going to a hotel, DFCS office or PRTF when the child/youth no longer meet's the clinical definition for medical necessity. In addition to those parameters, are supplementary behavioral criteria characteristics based on frequency, chronicity, and intensity.
 - b. As a condition of accepting the enhanced rate, a CCI provider must commit to only ejecting the child/youth to another planned placement provider (not to a hotel, DFCS Office, Crisis Stabilization Unit, or other temporary placement).

Approval Process and Authorizers

- Child/youth must have a current MWO Program Designation, transitioning to an approved/contracted RBWO CCI provider.

- DFCS staff member will request a MWO CCI Specialized Support Waiver Authorization via GA+SCORE only after a representative from CCTU concurs with the enhanced rate.
 - CCTU authorizers include all CCTU Specialists, CCTU Supervisors, CCTU Program Manager, CCTU Director and CCS Section Director.
3. \$193.73 MWO Rate + \$100 CCI Specialized Support Authorization + \$50 CCTU Director or Designee Add-On = **total per diem \$343.73**
- a. Applicable for MWO children/youth who are currently in or to prevent from going to a hotel, DFCS office or PRTF when the child/youth no longer meet's the clinical definition for medical necessity. In addition to those parameters are supplementary behavioral criteria characteristics based on frequency, chronicity, and intensity.
 - b. A CCI provider must commit to **no eject for a period of six (6) months.** After that, the youth will drop down to the MWO Enhanced Rate and the provider will commit to only ejecting the child/youth to another planned placement provider (not to a hotel, DFCS Office, Crisis Stabilization Unit, or other temporary placement).

Approval Process and Authorizers:

- Child/youth must have a current MWO Program Designation, transitioning to an approved/contracted RBWO CCI provider.
- DFCS staff member will request an MWO CCI Specialized Support Waiver Authorization with Add-on via GA+SCORE only after a representative from Care Coordination Treatment Unit (CCTU) concurs with the initial enhanced rate.
- The Add-on rate will require CCTU Director or Designee approval. The approval period will be for six months.
- After six months the Add-on Rate will expire, and the child/youth should drop down to the MWO Enhanced Rate. When appropriate the child/youth will then drop down to the standard RBWO MWO rate.
- Designees include CCTU Director, CCTU Supervisors, CCTU Program Manager and CCS Section Director.

How to request an MWO CCI Specialized Support Waiver Authorization

CCTU processes routine and emergency waiver requests for a variety of needs for children placed in CCIs and CPAs. These memorandums and specialty waivers are reviewed for children and youth that meet one or more high-end criteria.

Currently, Care Solutions is developing enhancements to the GA+SCORE system to capture the new MWO CCI Specialized Support Waiver Authorization request. In the interim, request a *standard* RBWO MWO Program Designation type for the specific child/youth. When completing the additional comment section of the request include that the waiver is for the MWO CCI Specialized Support Waiver Authorization Rate of \$100 or \$150 with concurrence from *Jane Doe* of CCTU.

Please follow these specific directions:

- Go to GA+SCORE homepage at www.gascore.com
- Click on DFCS/CCTU Waivers
- Scroll down under CCTU Requests ribbon and click on *Submit a Program Designation, Specialty Waiver, or Placement Assistance Request*
- When you are ready to submit, click **GET STARTED!**

What is required to make an MWO CCI Support Service Waiver Authorization Request?

1. Child/Youth must have a current MWO Program Designation
2. Concurrence via email from the provider agreeing to the enhanced rate conditions identified above to upload along with the request.
3. Concurrence from the Care Coordination Treatment Unit (CCTU) that the MWO CCI Support Service Waiver Authorization is appropriate. A formal staffing is not required for concurrence and can be assessed by CCTU with the Case Manager anytime when a placement assistance referral, PAUSE call, treatment team meeting or County staffing occurs.
4. At a minimum, you will need information such as the following. Please ensure you have the required components before beginning the submission:
 - a. Contact information for DFCS case manager, supervisor, and county director
 - b. Child/Youth current placement
 - c. Contact information for RBWO CCI provider identified
 - d. Child's name, Date of Birth, Legal County of Residence

- e. Summary of Child's Needs
- f. Effective Date
- g. Complete Universal Application

CCTU staff will respond to your waiver request using the contact information you provide. You may be contacted via phone or email to ask additional questions. You will know the status of your request from notifications sent from the GA+SCORE system. Please check your spam folder if you do not receive any notifications.

If you need to contact CCTU about a request you have already submitted, please contact cctu.support@dhs.ga.gov. If this request is during on-call hours (5pm-9am), weekends or holidays, please contact the assigned on-call CCTU specialist. https://www.gascore.com/content/proteam_home.cfm?oncallschedule.

Payment of Care

Once you have received a copy of the approved waiver, we want to ensure our contracted RBWO providers are paid on time for the supervision and services rendered to our children and youth. Therefore, Payment of Care (POC) updates and information must be captured in SHINES correctly and accurately and entered as soon as possible. A copy of the approved authorization waiver must be uploaded into SHINES and provided to the identified Child Caring Institution (CCI). An updated Payment of Care Job Aid is attached along with this memorandum to reference for guidance.

If you have any questions regarding how to enter Payment of Care (POC) please contact your Regional Data Integrity Specialist. If you were not able to download a copy of the approved MWO CCI Support Service Waiver Authorization via GA+SCORE, please contact CCTU.Support@dhs.ga.gov for assistance.

Please direct any additional questions to James Kizer, Director Care Coordination Treatment Unit, at james.kizer@dhs.ga.gov.