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February 22, 2021

Dear Parents,

New York State's Medicaid for children is undergoing a major transformation. Whether or not your child is currently enrolled in Medicaid, or has private health insurance, these changes will affect which services may be provided and/or paid for by Green Chimneys and which services will be delivered by outside providers and/or billed to your insurance provider.

The goal of this Medicaid redesign is to ensure that children with behavioral health needs are able to access a full array of services to improve their overall health and functioning. Medicaid has expanded its services so that more children and families are able to receive specialized therapies, crisis intervention, skill building and other services in their home and communities. Additionally, New York State is also making it easier for children with complex medical and/or mental health needs to become Medicaid eligible, making children who did not qualify previously due to family income able to receive these expanded services. The majority of children who are Green Chimneys residents are eligible for these Medicaid benefits. We can help you determine if your child is eligible for Medicaid and assist in applying.

While these increases in benefits and services are positive, there will also be changes that present challenges for how we deliver our services at Green Chimneys. As of July 1, 2021, Green Chimneys will no longer be able to pay for any non-routine medical services and prescriptions medications. Families will now be responsible for the cost of these services via their own insurance. Green Chimneys will assist in finding providers in your area and work with your child's primary care doctor as needed. These changes will impact all our residents, regardless of insurance provider. We ask that you review the attached Green Chimneys Patient responsibility agreement for more information.

Please know that these changes are statewide and will impact every residential treatment center. Although these changes are scheduled to go into effect on July 1, 2021, should there be any delay, we will immediately notify all of our families. We will work to help you navigate these changes, while we continue to provide the highest quality care to your children.

We know you will undoubtedly have questions regarding these changes. We have scheduled a meeting to address your concerns. Several GC administrators & our Managed Care Liaison will be in attendance. We ask that you submit your questions in advance. There will be a form to complete when you register for the event. The information is below:

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.

When: Mar 2, 2021 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?meeting=ZlIdOCqrTwiGtSkscD7-7T6qDOxFJxqqiOz>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

For more information on the transition, please visit the below website or reach out to one of the following people:

https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign/behavioral_health/index.htm

- Loraida Steinberger: Managed Care Liaison, 845.743.1975 or lsteinberger@greenchimneys.org
- Leeanne DiRusso: Director of Nursing, 845.279.2995 Ext. 252 or ldirusso@greenchimneys.org
- Dr. Steve Klee: A.E.D Clinical & Medical Services, 845.279.2995 Ext. 181 or sklee@greenchimneys.org

Thank you,

Ed Placke

Ed Placke, Ed.D.
Executive Director