WHAT IS PARENTAL DEEMING?

One of the core requirements for enrollment into the Care Coordination Organization (CCO)/Health Home is Medicaid. Some children wishing to enroll into LIFEPlan CCO may already have existing Medicaid. Some children may not have Medicaid and may not qualify for it based on their family's income. In these situations, **applying for Medicaid for children who do not income qualify is called Parental Deeming.** The process for Medicaid in these Parental Deeming situations has several additional steps from applying for Medicaid for those who qualify based on income.

Before explaining the process of applying for Medicaid, it's important to first explore the meaning behind the OPWDD HCBS Waiver.

- If a child does not income qualify for Medicaid, there may be another way for them to receive the Medicaid required to enroll into LIFEPlan CCO. This is through the OPWDD HCBS Waiver.

- All approved Parental Deeming children are required to receive OPWDD HCBS Waiver Service(s) to maintain their Medicaid and CCO enrollment status.

- It is called the HCBS Waiver because it "waives" certain Medicaid criteria. In this case, it's the parent's income.

- The Care Connection Specialist will first apply for Waiver services for then child. Depending on the OPWDD DDRO (Regional OPWDD Office), the process sometimes looks a little different.

- When looking at a Waiver application, OPWDD likes to look at community supports and natural supports that have been explored.

- If OPWDD approves this request for waiver enrollment, they will provide a document called the Letter of Introduction.

- The Care Connection Specialist will include this letter when sending the Medicaid application to the County DSS. This letter tells that County DSS that the child, although they don't income qualify for Medicaid, qualify based on being eligible for the OPWDD HCBS Waiver.

- Once the Medicaid is approved, OPWDD HCBS Waiver can then be approved. The child/family will work with LIFEPlan CCO to coordinate and set up waiver service(s).