



COMMISSIONER
Adelaide Horn

June 30, 2008

To: Home and Community Support Services Agency (HCSSA) Community Based Alternatives (CBA) Providers in Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy Counties

Subject: Information Letter No. 08-91
July 1, 2008 Implementation of Overnight Companion Services (OCS)

On April 25, 2008, DADS published [Information Letter 08-58](#) regarding a new CBA demonstration service, OCS, which will be offered annually to up to 20 participants relocating from institutional to community living through the new [Money Follows the Person Demonstration](#). OCS provide 8-12 consecutive hours of direct support and assistance in the individual's home during normal sleeping hours. The companion is not required to remain awake, but must be able to be awakened and provide assistance when needed.

OCS is available in Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy counties effective July 1, 2008.

On June 23, 2008, the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) approved a rate of **\$44.17 per unit of OCS service**. A unit of service is one 8-12 hour period.

Unlike the required array of CBA services, the provision of OCS by a HCSSA is voluntary. The OCS service code has been added to the CBA contract of each HCSSA enrolled to provide OCS. No other action is required for these HCSSAs. Participating HCSSAs should access a MESAV (Medicaid Eligibility Service Authorization Verification) to ensure the OCS code is available prior to attempting to bill for OCS.

HCSSAs interested in providing OCS may contact Gilbert Estrada, CBA Program Specialist, at gilbert.estrada@dads.state.tx.us, providing the CBA contract number and requesting to be enrolled as an OCS provider.

For additional details regarding OCS services including eligibility, service limits and information related to enrolling to provide and billing for OCS, please review [IL 08-58](#).

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact Gilbert Estrada at gilbert.estrada@dads.state.tx.us, or (512) 438-2578.

If you have questions regarding the OCS rate, please contact Sarah Hambrick at sarah.hambrick@hhsc.state.tx.us or (512) 491-1431.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Michelle Dionne-Vahalik
Director Community Services

MDV: rz