

# HCBS Referral & Authorization Portal: Authorization Process

# Agenda

- ✓ Referral & Authorization Portal Development
- ✓ Updates
- ✓ Authorization Process
- ✓ Managed Care
- √ Fee-for-Service
- ✓ Notifications and Alerts
- √Q&A

## **HCBS Referral & Authorization Portal**

In response to stakeholder and provider feedback, the development and implementation of the Referral & Authorization Portal has been broken up into four phases:

#### 1. New referrals for HCBS children/youth: Launched June 17, 2024

Children/youth who are not currently receiving services, even if they have been previously referred to HCBS Providers, must be referred through the Referral Portal with a new referral.

#### 2. Connections for children/youth currently receiving services: Launched July 24, 2024

Current children/youth receiving HCBS must be entered into the Referral & Authorization Portal. As such, a streamlined connection process has been developed to expedite the entrance of those already receiving HCBS into the Portal. Care managers and HCBS providers will work together to confirm children/youth already enrolled and receiving services. **DOH plans to discontinue Short Form Connection features October 31, 2024.** 

#### 3. Authorization Process: Will launch October 21, 2024

The authorization form will be integrated into the Referral & Authorization Portal on October 21st. HCBS providers will document their service authorization request and then enter the MMCP response. DOH will moderate Fee-For-Service (FFS) Authorizations.

#### 4. MMCP Access to the Referral & Authorization Portal: Planned for November 2024

Medicaid Managed Care Plans (MMCP) will obtain access to the Portal to view children/youth's complete referral, authorization, and those waiting for services. Integration with other MMCP systems needs further discussion.

# Referral & Authorization Portal Development



## **Consent to Make a Referral**

**Reminder** to Health Home and C-YES care managers that consent is needed to make a referral.

An attestation will be added to the Referral process within the Portal to verify that the care manager received consent to send the referral, and the information obtained on the referral form. Without written consent on the Health Home consent of the DOH 5201, additional documents cannot be shared with HCBS providers.

When educating and sharing information about the services and choice of HCBS providers within the participant's county, the care manager should share an overview of the referral process, options of providers, and priority of providers by choice of the participant/family.

This consent can be verbal and must be documented in the case record.

The previous paper HCBS Referral form had the following attestation: "I attest that the member has elected to receive all HCBS requested above."

Additional information was provided on the October 1, 2024, <u>HCBS Service Referral Process & Expectations</u> webinar.

#### **Short Form Connections**

Short Form Connections were developed to ensure all existing children/youth who were already receiving services prior to the launch of the HCBS Referral & Authorization Portal on June 17, 2024, were entered into the system in preparation for the Authorization portion of the Portal.

Additionally, since a paper Referral Form was already submitted to HCBS providers, the Short Form Connection aimed to lessen the burden for care managers and HCBS providers.

The ability to utilize the Short Form Connection function will end on October 31, 2024.

Any child/youth receiving HCBS will not be able to continue HCBS at the time of HCBS reauthorization until a full Referral is completed within the system and the current HCBS provider is selected.

Additional information surrounding the Short Form Connection is located <u>here</u>.

#### **Short Form Connections**

All Short Form Connections must be created in the portal by October 31, 2024.

~7,000

Number of children/youth **added** via Short Form Connections or a full Referral as of October 1, 2024

~1,000

Number of children/youth still waiting to be added via Short Form Connections as of October 1, 2024

## **Updated Children's Services Menu**

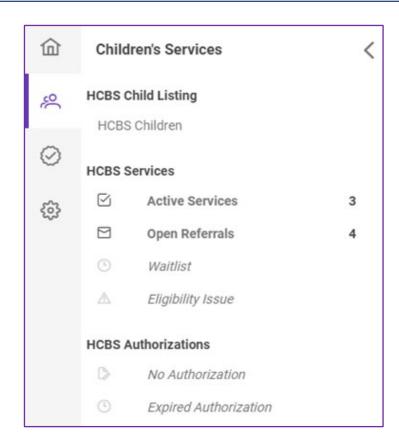
Upon log-in to the system, a new Children's Services menu is available. This new menu can be used by users to quickly navigate to the following sections of the Portal:

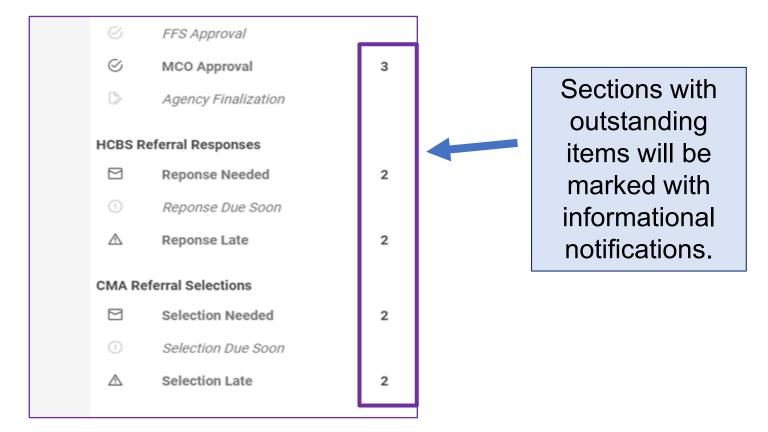
\*HCBS Services

\*HCBS Authorizations

\*HCBS Referral Responses

\*CMA Referral Selections







## **Fee-for-Service Authorization**

**Note:** The NYS Department of Health will be implementing a Fee-for-Service (FFS) Authorization process.

The Referral & Authorization Portal will include FFS authorization.

## Launch of Authorization Features

Effective October 21, 2024, all <u>new</u> HCBS Authorization Requests <u>must</u> be created and managed within the HCBS Referral & Authorization Portal.

- Only authorizations generated by the Portal can be submitted for authorization and claim payment. Use of the previous HCBS Authorization and Care Manager Notification Form will no longer be permitted.
- Authorizations are required for both MMCP and FFS participants.
- Authorizations can only be created if the child/youth has an active K-Code, active Medicaid, an active service (full referral or short form connection), or has a pending Fair Hearing with Aid to Continue.

#### Launch of Authorization Features

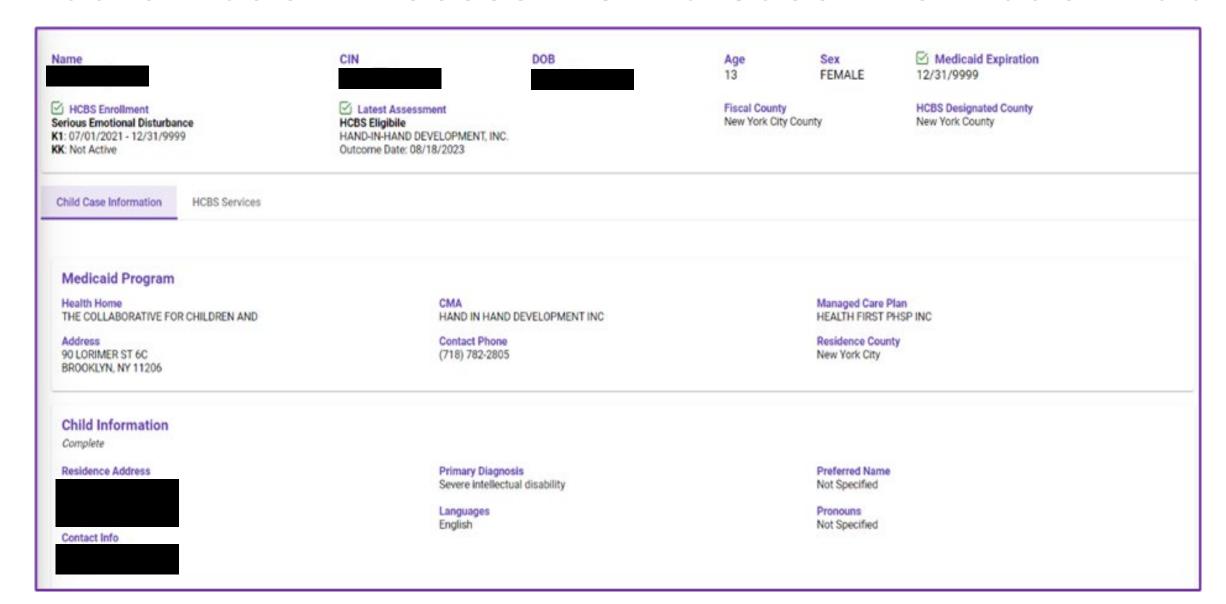
- The authorization needs to be completed at least 14 days prior to the end of the initial service period of 60 days/96 units/24 hours and at least 14 days prior to the end of an existing authorization period for re-authorization.
- A service may have no authorization if the service was cancelled or satisfied within the initial period. If an authorization is not needed, the HCBS agency should discharge and indicate the circumstance.
- Authorizations are not active until they have been approved/authorized by the MMCP or FFS.
- Without proper authorization, submitted claims by HCBS providers may not be paid by the MMCP or the HCBS provider will have to pay funds back for FFS

A potential OMIG referral may occur if billing occurs without proper authorization

HCBS providers with a **Manage Child Referral** role can access Authorization features in the Portal.

- To begin the Authorization process, the HCBS provider will navigate to the Child Case
   Page to confirm all participant information is accurate and up to date before proceeding with completing an authorization request.
- Authorizations can only be submitted for active services.
  - Active Services means a referral has been entered in the Referral & Authorization
     Portal and an HCBS provider has been selected to provide the services.
- After confirming information is up-to-date on the Child Case Page, the HCBS Service
  tab will need to be selected to begin the Authorization.

#### **Authorization Process – Child Case Information Tab**

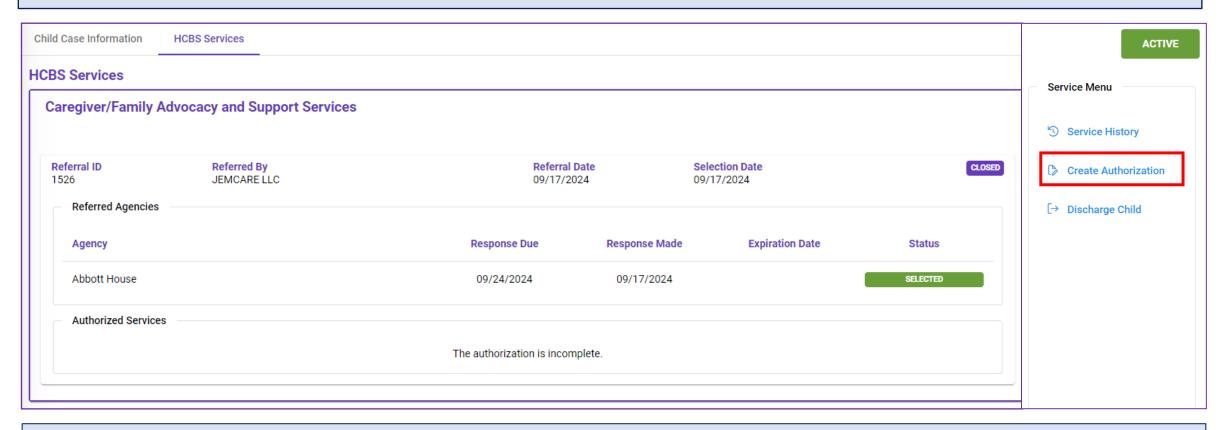


## **Authorization Process – HCBS Services Tab**

HCBS providers will start the authorization process on the **HCBS Services** tab of the **Child Case Page**.

The HCBS Provider will navigate to the service that requires an authorization by clicking **Create Authorization**.

Authorizations can only be submitted for active services.

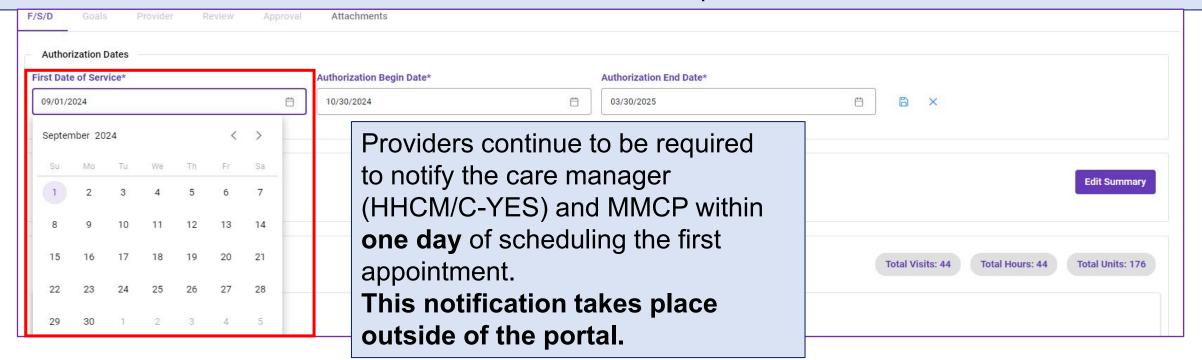


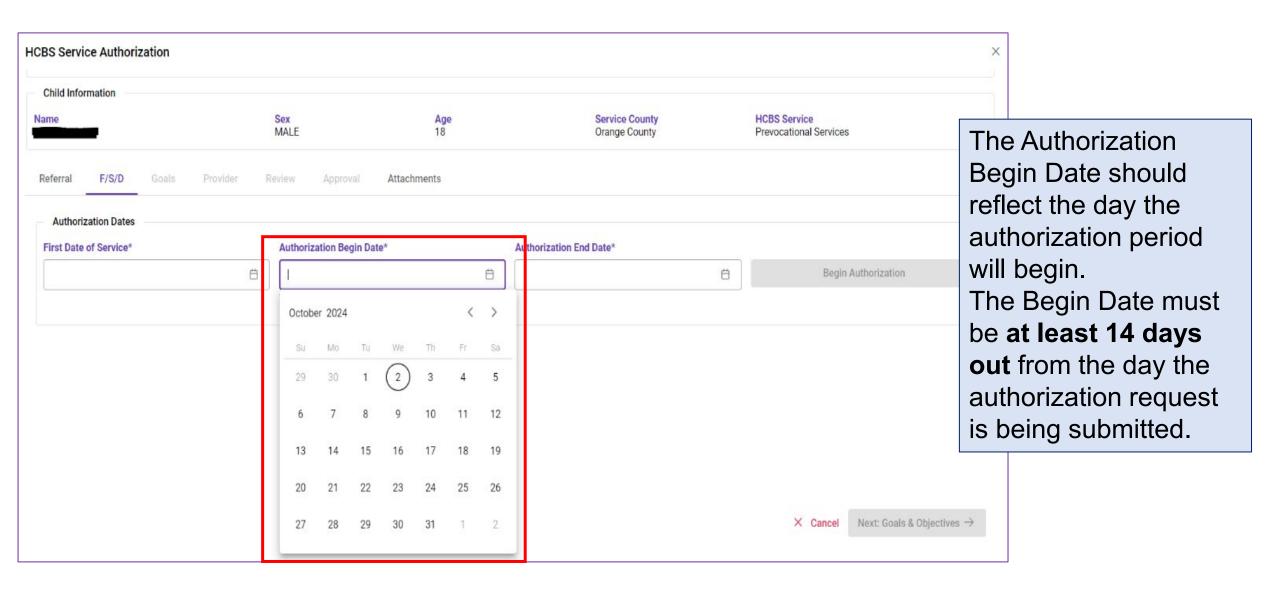
If authorization is needed for multiple services, authorization for each service will be requested individually.

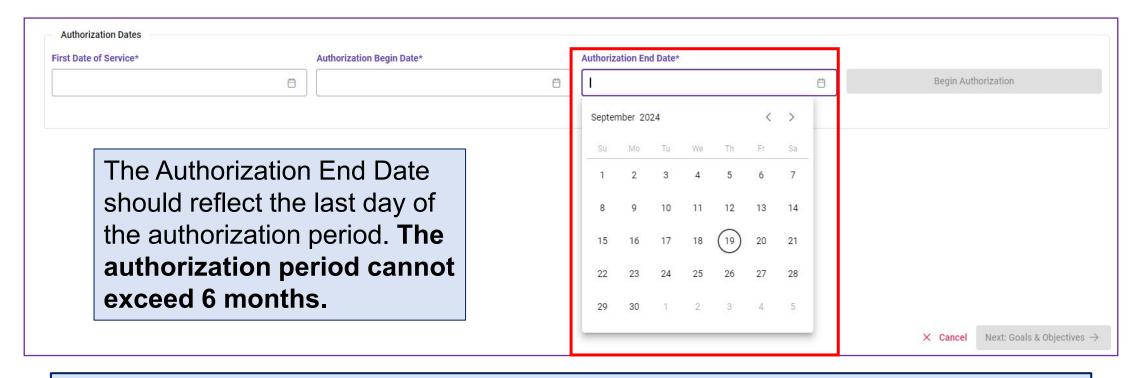
The authorization submission process will take the HCBS provider through multiple tabs. Each tab must be completed in order to be able to progress to the next tab. For the provider to complete the Authorization to submit to the MMCP or FFS, all tabs must be reviewed, and all information must be entered minimally on the F/S/D, Goals, Provider, and Review tabs.

On the **F/S/D tab**, the HCBS provider will enter the First Date of Service, Authorization Begin Date, and Authorization End Date by using the calendar drop-down in each section.

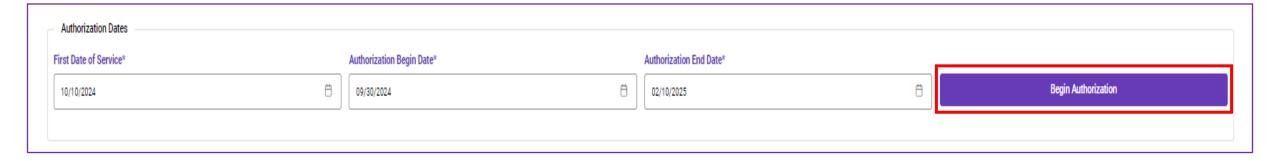
All three fields are required.



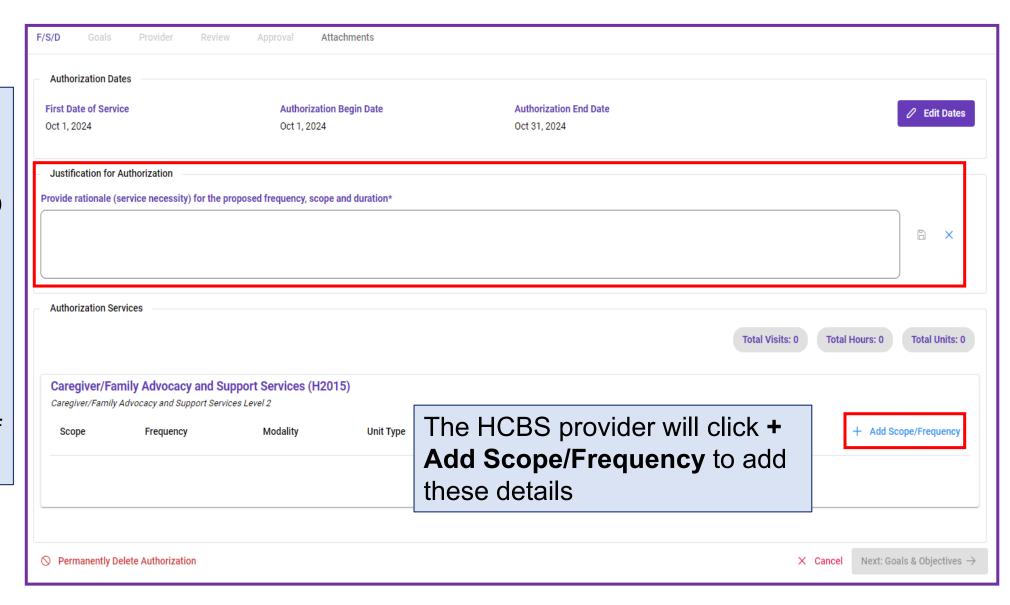




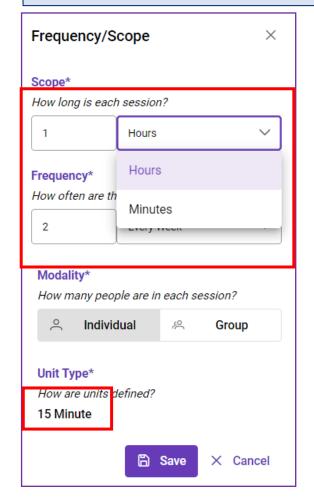
After the three fields have been completed, providers can click Begin Authorization.

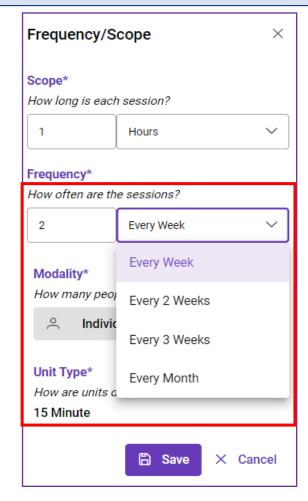


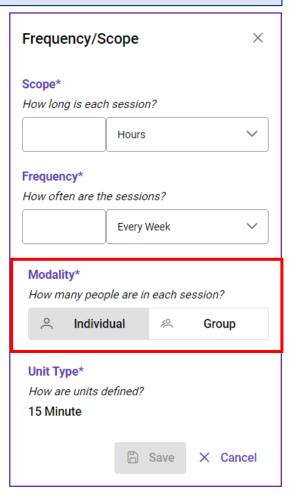
After clicking **Begin** Authorization, additional boxes will appear on the F/S/D tab. Here, the provider will include a justification for the authorization request and details on planned F/S/D of service delivery.



In the Frequency/Scope box, HCBS providers will specify the Scope (Hours or Minutes), Frequency (Every Week, Every 2 Weeks, Every 3 Weeks, or Every Month), and Modality of the Service (Individual or Group) using the drop-down menus.

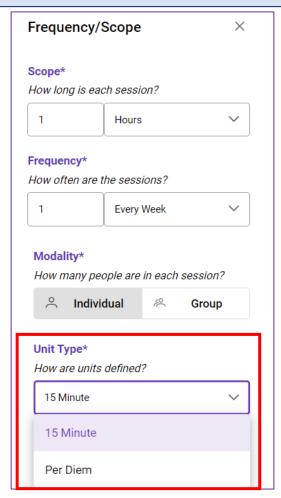




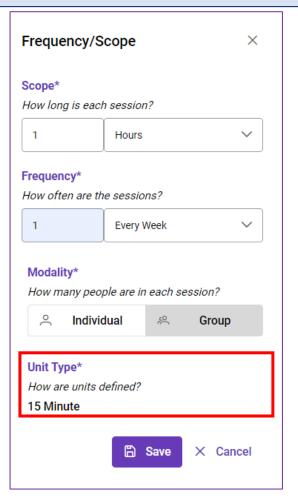


For services with multiple unit types, such as *Planned Respite*, the Unit Type can also be adjusted between 15 Minutes or Per Diem. Some services do not contain multiple units, such as *Community Habilitation*, and will not allow the Unit Type to be edited.

Planned Respite



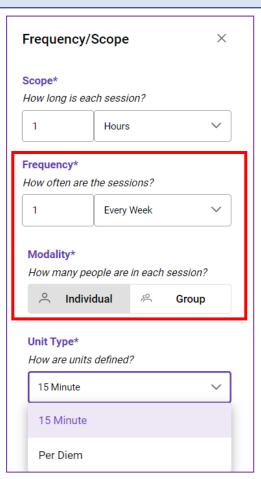
Community Habilitation



#### Providers should enter all applicable F/S/D for each service.

If, for example, Individual Respite is provided once a week and Group Respite is provided once a month, each should be entered separately on the authorization.

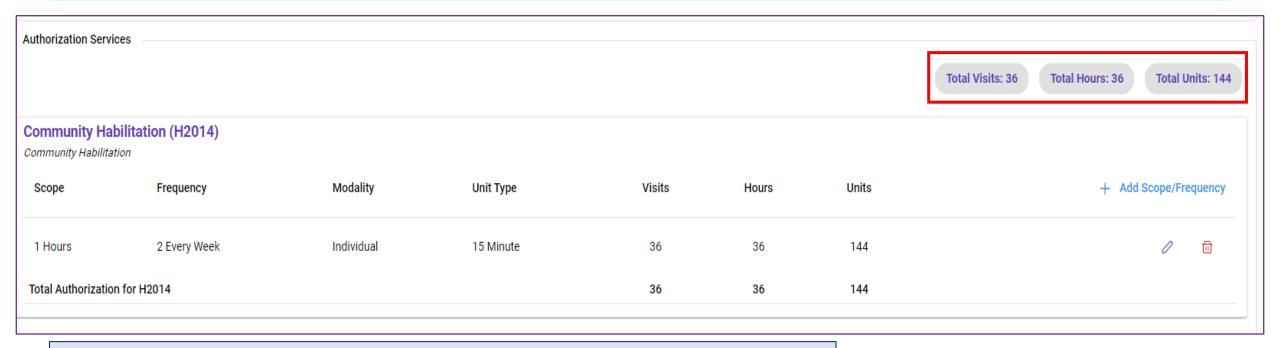
Individual Respite



**Group Respite** 

cope*				
How lon	g is each s	ession?		
1		Hours		~
requen low ofte	en are the s	sessions?  Every Month		~
Modali How m		are in each se	ession?	

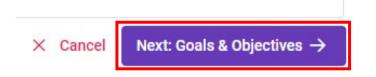
Once the Frequency and Scope have been entered, a summary of the requested F/S/D can be seen on the F/S/D tab



Authorization Dates, Justification, and Service Authorization Details must all be saved in order to proceed to the next page.

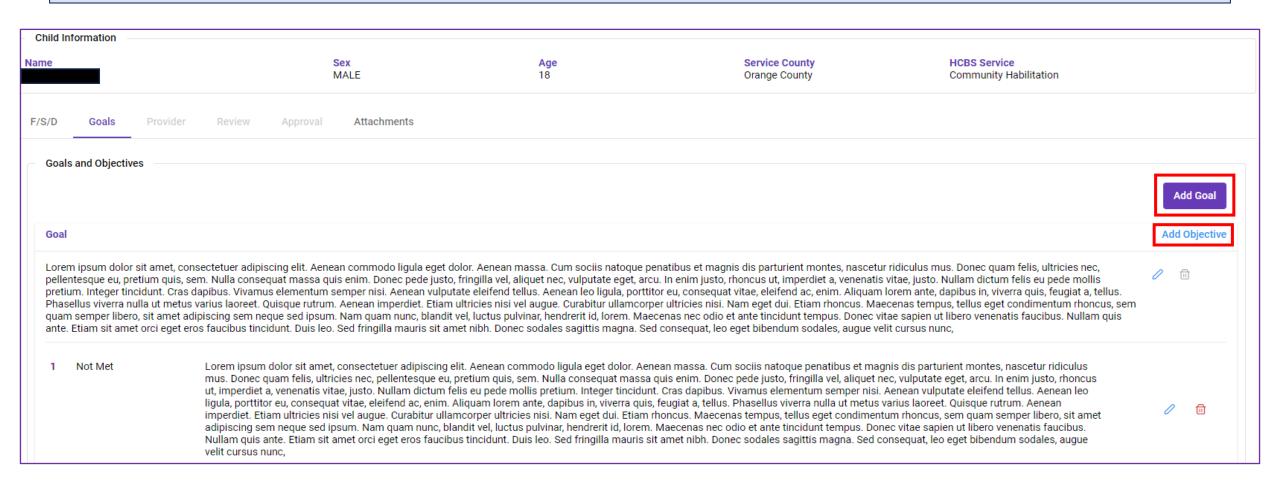
Once all information is entered and saved, the provider will click

Next: Goals & Objectives to proceed to the next tab.



On the **Goals** tab, the HCBS provider will add service goals and objectives. Goals must be Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Timely (SMART).

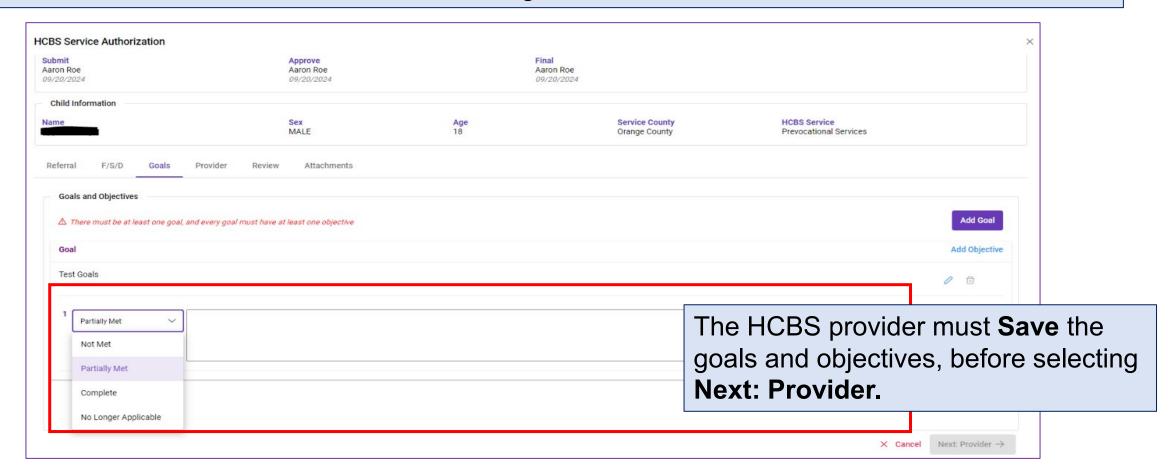
Each service must have at least one goal and each goal must have one or more objective(s).



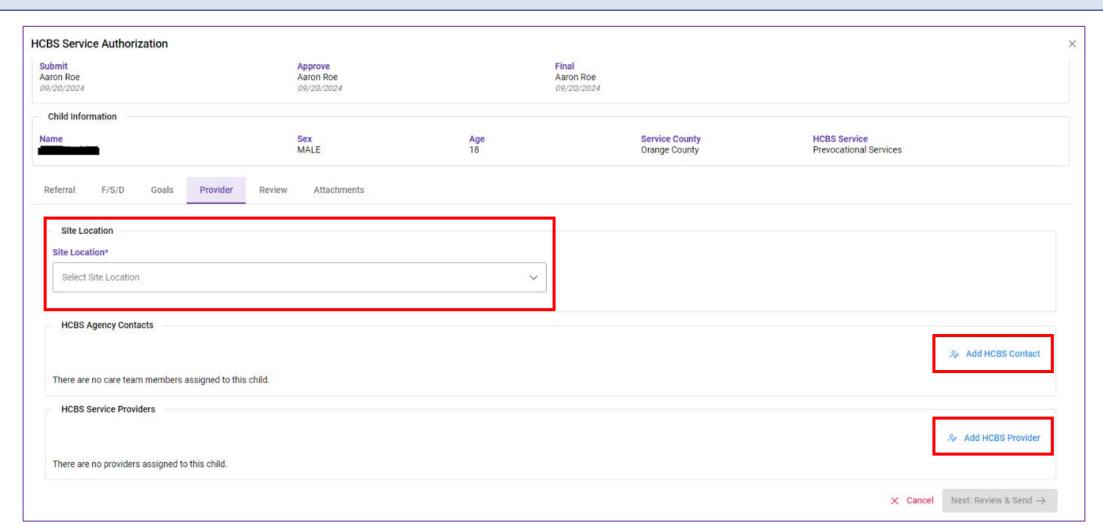
# **Service Goals and Objectives**

- Goals must be Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Timely (SMART).
- The Goals must be specific to the Service definition and what is allowable for the service. Goals should have an overall projected timeframe.
- Objectives must be specific in how the service will be provided. There may need to be multiple objectives to accomplish one goal, and each objective might have different timeframes based on the specific activities or tasks that will be provided.
  - Reference Resource Children's Waiver HCBS Authorization and Care Manager Notification Form Instructional Guide (ny.gov)

The HCBS provider must indicate if each goal was **Not Met**, **Partially Met**, **Complete**, or **No Longer Applicable**. Goals that are newly established should be categorized as **Not Met**. The **No Longer Applicable** status should be used for previous goals that have not been completed but are no longer needed.



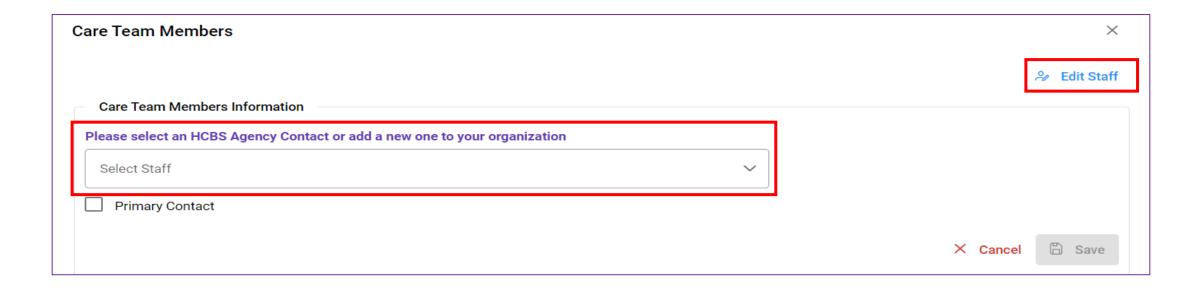
On the **Provider** tab, the HCBS provider will report Site Location, HCBS Agency Contact, and HCBS Provider contact information.



#### To add an HCBS Agency Contact, click Add HCBS Contact.



When the HCBS Provider clicks **Add HCBS Contact**, the Care Team Members section will appear. The drop-down menu is available to select an existing staff member or add a new staff member. At least one contact must be marked as the **Primary Contact** before proceeding.



Save

X Cancel

#### **Authorization Process**

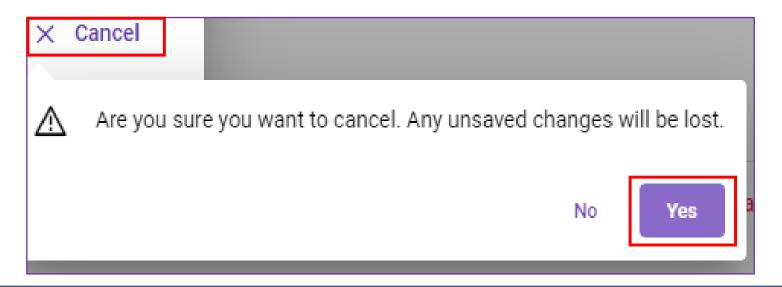
Please select a HCBS Provider or add a new one to your organization

Select Staff

To add an HCBS Service Provider (staff who will providing the service), click Add HCBS Provider. **HCBS Service Providers** 2 Add HCBS Provider There are no providers assigned to this child. When the HCBS Provider clicks **Add HCBS Providers**, the HCBS Service Provider section will appear. The drop-down menu is available to select an existing staff member or add a new staff member. **HCBS Service Providers** X Edit Staff HCBS Service Provider Information

The HCBS provider may only move to the **Review** tab once they have added HCBS contacts.

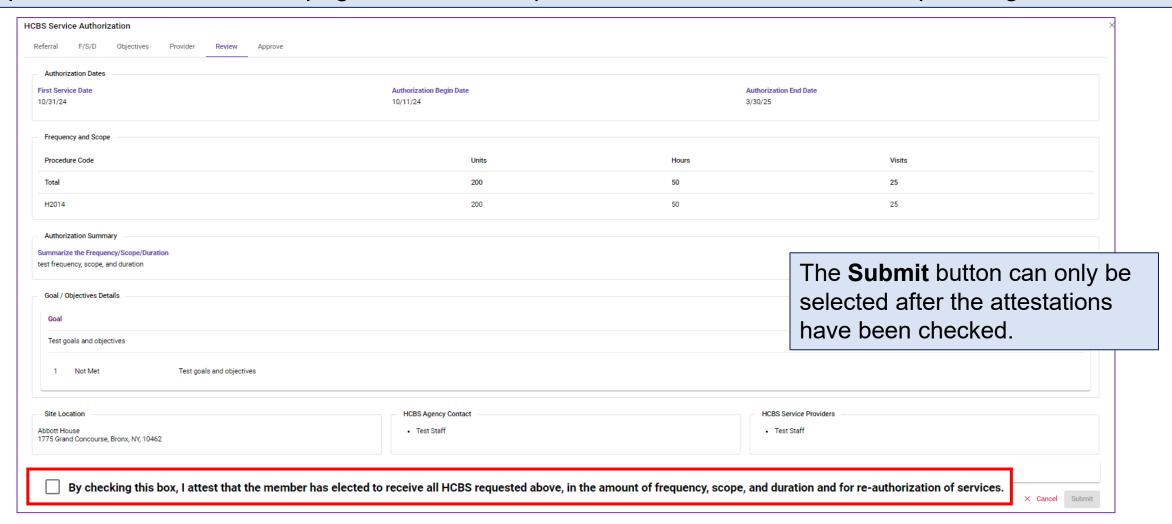
At any time, the HCBS provider can exit out of the authorization without saving by pressing the **Cancel** button on any tab.



To delete an Authorization request, the HCBS provider can select **Permanently Delete Authorization** on the F/S/D tab.

○ Permanently Delete Authorization
 X Cancel
 Next: Goals & Objectives →

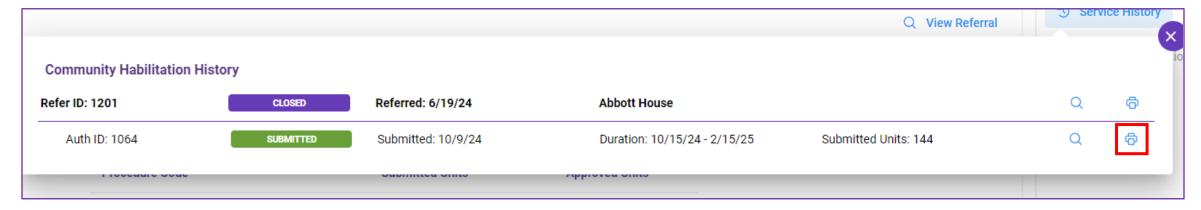
The **Review** tab will provide a snapshot of the information entered by the HCBS provider. The HCBS provider must review the page and then complete the two attestations before pressing **Submit**.



As the HCBS provider attested to before submitting, authorizations for MMCP enrolled participants are required to be sent to the MMCP securely outside of the portal. HCBS providers can download the authorization as a PDF from the portal.

The authorization can be printed by selecting **Service History** from the **HCBS Services Tab** of the **Child Case Page.** 

Community Habilitation					ACTIVE	
Referral ID 1201	Referred By HAND IN HAND DEVELOPMENT INC	<b>Referral Date</b> 06/19/2024	Selection Date 09/23/2024	CLOSED	Service Menu	
				Q View Referral	Service History	
Auth ID 1064	HCBS Agency Abbott House	Service Duration 10/15/24 -2/15/25		SUBMITTED	<ul><li>Create Authorization</li><li>Discharge Child</li></ul>	
Submit Date 10/9/24				Q View Authorization		



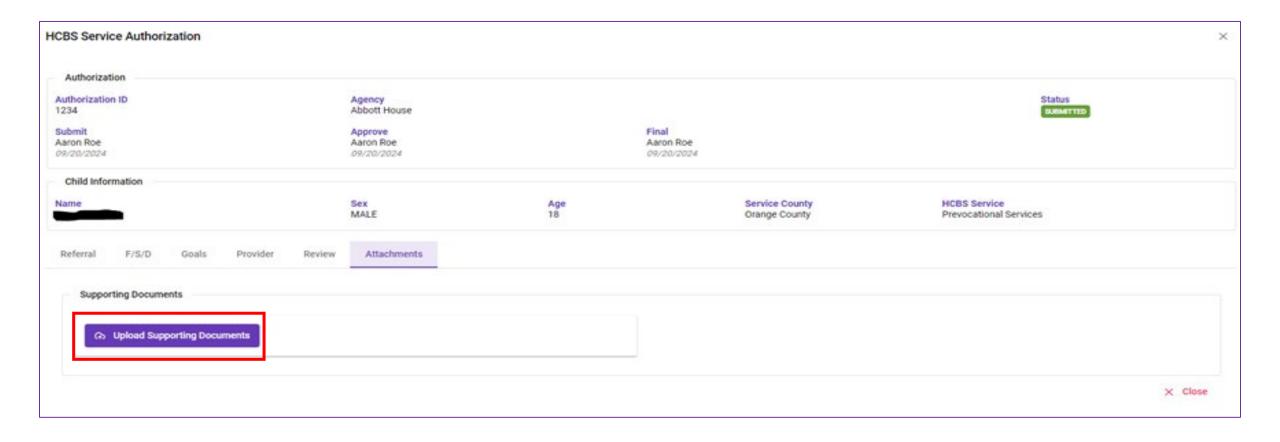
ONLY Authorizations generated in the Referral & Authorization Portal will be allowable for MMCP and FFS authorization after the launch of the Authorization portion of the Portal.

MMCPs and FFS personnel will be instructed to deny all other forms of authorization.

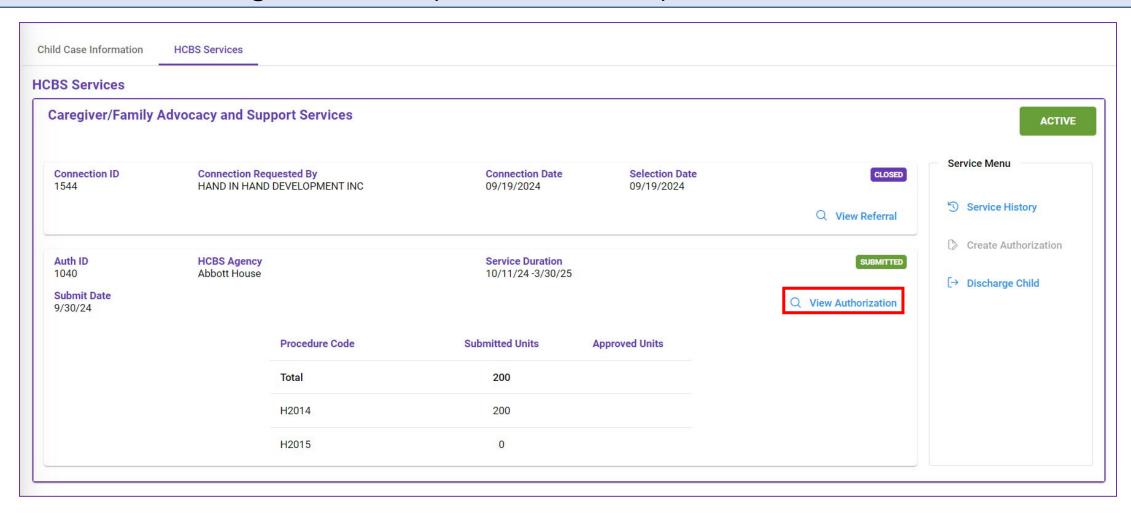
As mentioned, submitting Authorizations for review and authorization by the MMCP will be conducted outside the Portal at this time, current submission processes remain in effect.

The **Attachments** tab is used to upload supporting documentation in relation to the child/youth's service needs.

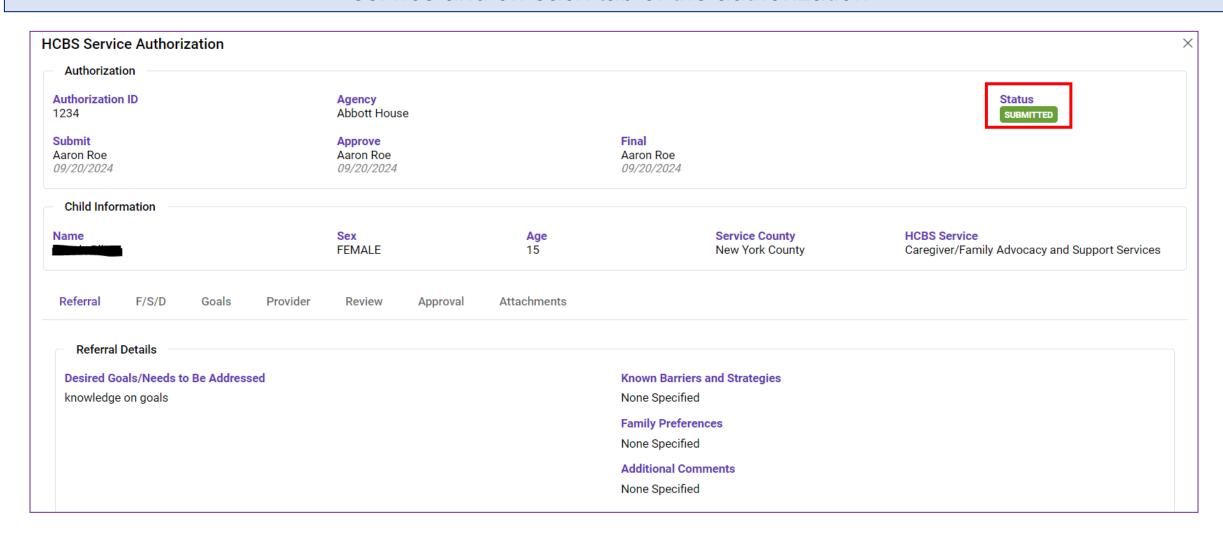
**Note**: Currently this upload function is only for Authorization supporting documentation.



To return to the Authorization at any time, the HCBS provider can navigate to the HCBS Services Tab of the **Child Case Page.** Under the specific service, the provider can select **View Authorization**.



Once an authorization has been Submitted in the portal, a **Submitted** icon will appear next to the service and on each tab of the authorization.

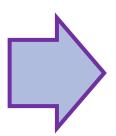


# **Managed Care**



#### **Authorization Submission – MMCP**

Initially, MMCPs will not have access to the Portal. All authorizations generated within the portal will need to be downloaded and submitted to the MMCP outside of the portal, through a secure mechanism agreed upon by the MMCP and HCBS provider.

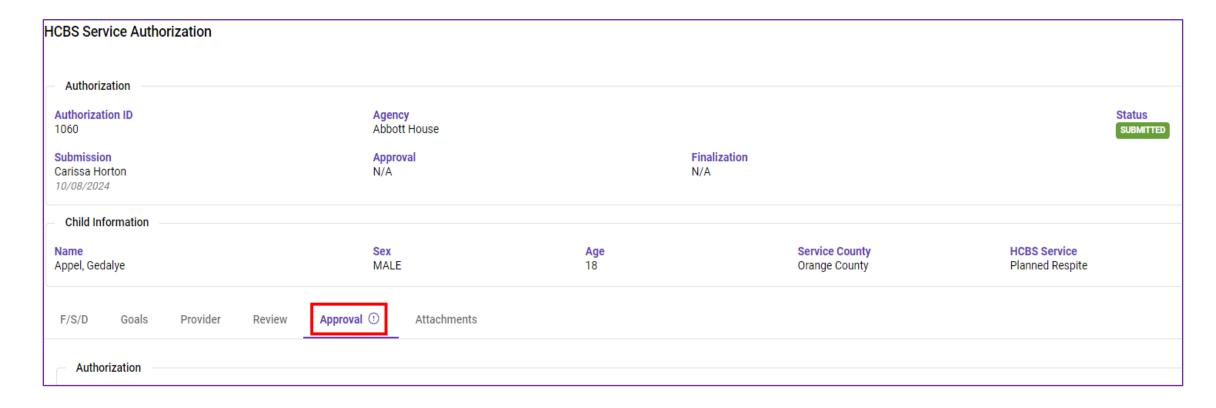


After receiving and authorization determination from the MMCP, the HCBS provider will **return to the Portal** and enter if the authorization is approved, partially approved, or denied, finalizing the authorization.

#### **Authorization Process**

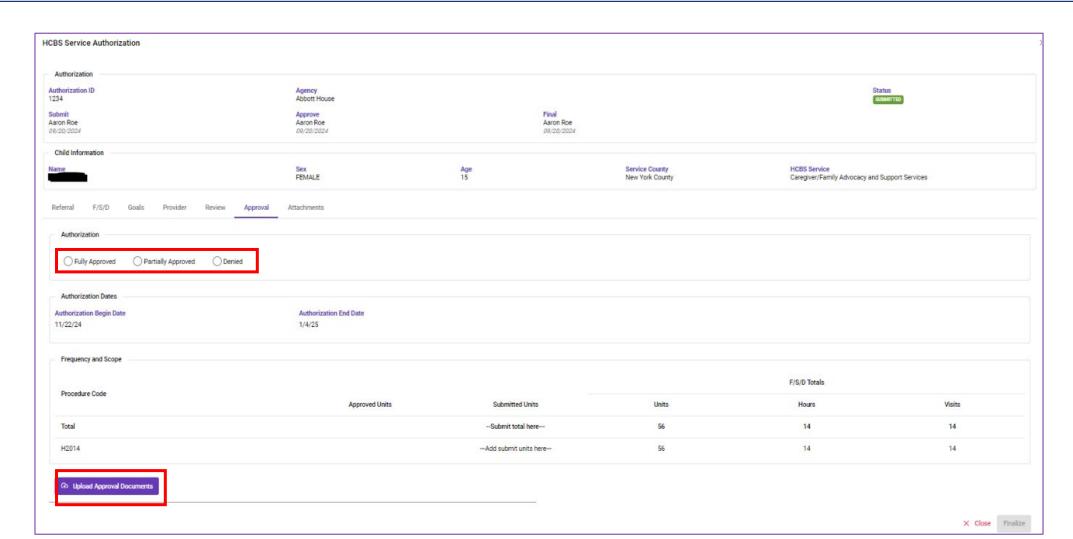
Once the HCBS provider receives a response from the MMCP they will return to the Approval tab of the authorization to report the authorization determination.

The ! alert will indicate that the authorization has not been finalized and requires authorization determination information.



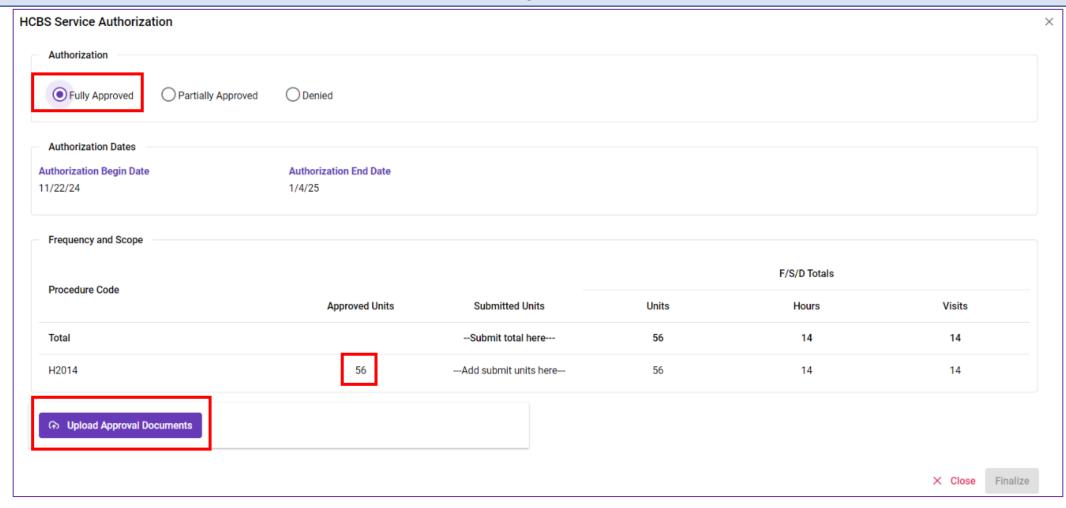
# **MMCP** Response

The HCBS provider will indicate the authorization they received from the MMCP of **Fully Approved**, **Partially Approved**, **or Denied** and upload the determination notice on the Approve tab.



### Children/Youth in a MMCP

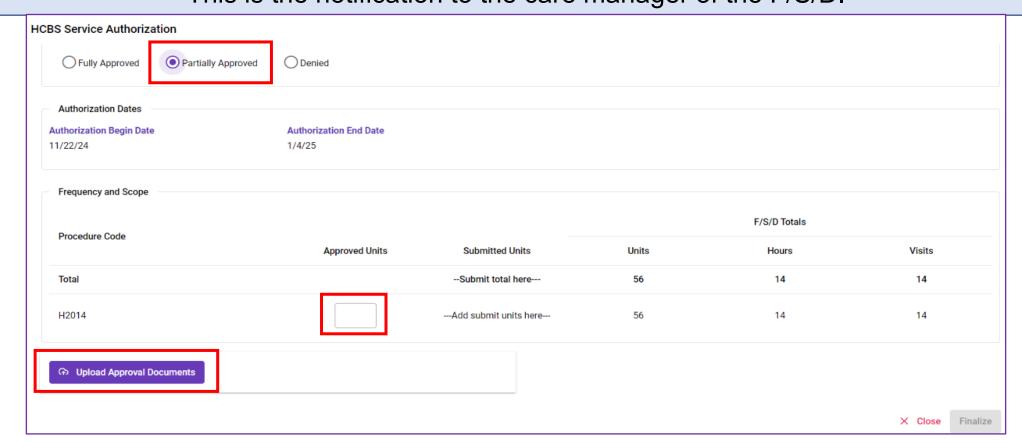
If the MMCP fully approves the authorization: The provider will select Fully Approved. The system will automatically prefill with the full approved units from the authorization request. The provider will upload the MMCP's Authorization determination using the Upload Approval Documents button.



#### Children/Youth in an MMCP

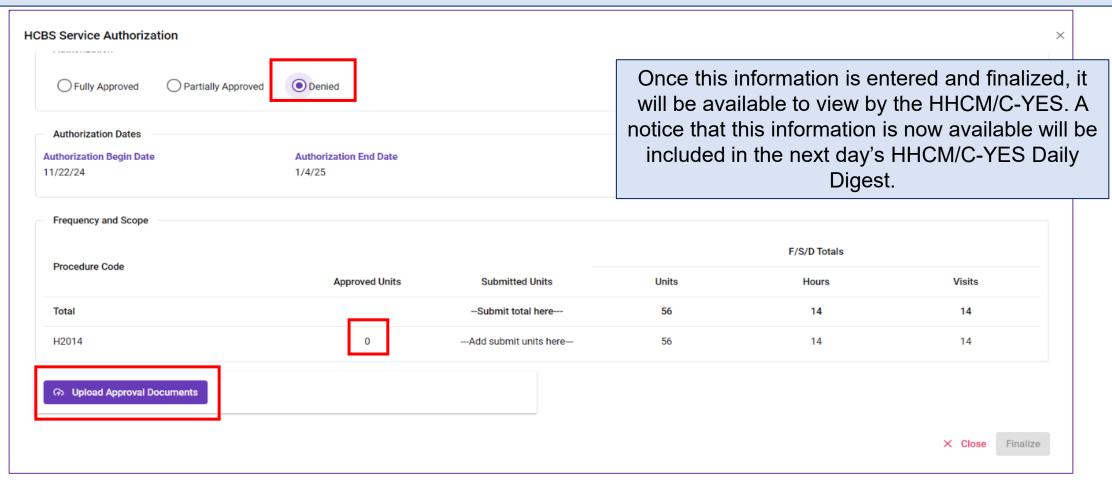
**Approved** and enter the approved units **or** hours into the text box on this tab to update the service F/S/D to align with the MMCP's approval. The provider will upload the MMCP's Authorization determination using the **Upload Approval Documents** button.

This is the notification to the care manager of the F/S/D.



#### Children/Youth in a MMCP

If the MMCP denies the authorization: The HCBS provider will select **Denied.** The system will automatically enter zero (0) approved units. The provider will upload the MMCP's Authorization determination using the **Upload Approval Documents** button.



## Fee-for-Service



#### Fee-for-Service

As mentioned, DOH will be issuing a policy to begin reviewing and authorizing HCBS F/S/D for Fee-for-Service (FFS) participants.

Therefore, the Portal will include a Fee-for-Service (FFS) authorization process. The MMCP and FFS Authorization process and information entered by the HCBS provider will be the same, except at the authorization step. DOH will enter the Referral & Authorization Portal and determine if the authorization is approved, partially approved, or denied.

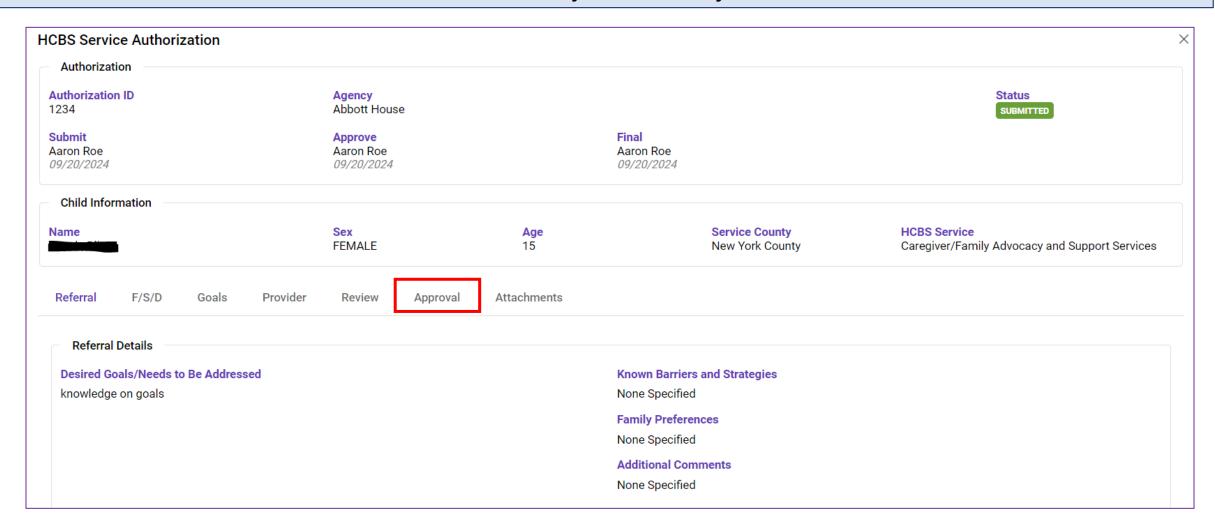
HCBS providers will receive a notification when DOH issues an authorization determination. After receiving this notification, the HCBS provider will re-enter the portal to review the determination and make adjustments to F/S/D, if needed.

Once this information is entered and finalized, it will be available to view by the HHCM/C-YES. A notice that this information is now available will be included in the HHCM/C-YES Daily Digest.

Additional information about the FFS authorization process will be provided through a FFS authorization policy, scheduled for release shortly.

#### **Authorization Process**

Once the HCBS provider receives a response from DOH they will return to the Approval tab to review the authorization determination and make any needed adjustments to finalize the authorization.



# Approve F/S/D

Referral F/S/D Objectives Provider	Review App	prove				
Authorization Dates  First Service Date  9/1/24	Authorization Begin Date 9/1/24				Authorization End Date 9/30/24	
Fully Approve Partially Approve Deny  Frequency and Scope					The DOH user will determine the response to the authorization and	
Procedure Code	Approved	Units	Hours	Visits		indicate the approved units. DOH will also provide a written explanation justifying their
Total		80	20	10		
H2014		80	20	10		
Please update the F/S/D to be within 5 units of the final approval  Note: For DOH Only					response.	
Provide determination and explanation of approval of	or denial					

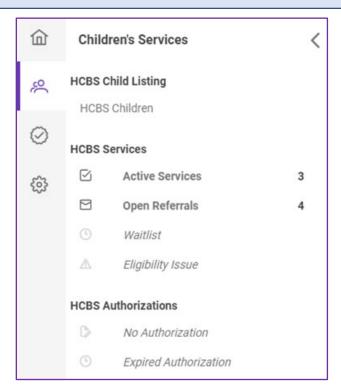
### **Notifications and Alerts**

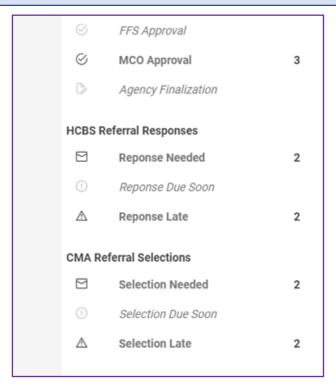


## **Updated Children's Services Menu**

Upon log-in to the system, a new Children's Services menu is available. This new menu can be used by users to quickly navigate to the following sections of the Portal:

- HCBS Services
- HCBS Authorizations
- HCBS Referral Responses
  - CMA Referral Selections





#### **Alerts and Actions**

If a participant does not have an authorization in the system within 30 days from the date of provider selection, an alert will appear on the participant's record in the system indicating that the participant does not yet have an authorization.

Re-authorizations should be submitted at least 14 days prior to the end of the existing authorization period. If a participant no longer requires the service, the HCBS provider should notify the care manager and discharge the participant in the portal

If 30 days have past since
the expiration of the
authorization, the participant
will be automatically
discharged from the HCBS
provider in the system. The
Care Manager will be notified
of this discharge through their
next Daily Digest.



For additional questions on the HCBS Referral Portal, please reach out to Health Homes with a subject line of "IRAMS Questions only- No PHI"

Click here for the IRAMS page on DOH website



### For Questions/Issues

When users encounter issues within the portal, reach out to <a href="Health Homes">Health Homes</a> and include the URL of the issue in your message. This allows DOH to review the exact situation and provide the best support.