



State of Louisiana

Department of Health and Hospitals
Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities

Quarterly Update to the DD Council

Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD)

December 19, 2012

GENERAL UPDATE ON AGENCY INITIATIVES:

Transition Status: During the past quarter, OCDD finalized and initiated two Cooperative Endeavor Agreements with private providers to operate Northwest Supports and Services Center and Northlake Supports and Services Center, transferring a total of 343 persons to private supports. These private providers have full responsibility for delivery of ICF/DD (Intermediate Care Facility for Persons with Developmental Disabilities) services and facility operations in their current locations. OCDD continues to employ at least one employee at each location to serve as the Contract Monitor, providing support to the new provider and serving as a liaison between the Office and the provider. Pinecrest Supports and Services Center is the only remaining public Supports and Services Center operating in Louisiana with 413 residents on October 1, 2012. Current census to date is 401 with an additional five (5) persons projected to move to waiver supports or private ICF supports within the next quarter. OCDD continues to provide Transition and Technical Support Team services to persons transitioning to private supports for a least a one-year period post-discharge. Satisfaction Rates for individuals assessed post-discharge indicate that people are satisfied overall in their new living situations. Baseline rates for those persons surveyed in this quarter noted 87% overall satisfaction, with a 97% satisfaction rate at one year post-discharge (assessed in October 2012). Additionally, 100% of the persons transitioned this fiscal year have remained in their most integrated setting.

Accountability and Implementation Plan (AIP) Quality Partnership Update: A work group met to make additional revisions to the Accountability and Implementation Plan (AIP) Outcome Measures and Monitoring (Master Review File) to include performance indicators for waiver service requirements outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DHH and the Local Governance Entities (LGE). Once changes are approved, the workgroup recommends that pilot monitoring be conducted in early January 2013 to determine how the revised performance indicators will work and to modify the process as necessary. The proposed January pilot date will allow time to revise the performance indicators and develop operational instructions for full implementation in fiscal year 2013-2014. The OCDD Mandated Reports section was also updated to reflect changes that have occurred in the databases currently in use and those planned for future use in data entry and reporting.

Amending the Children's Choice (CC) Waiver: OCDD staff has begun the rulemaking process for the amendment to the Children's Choice waiver, which was approved in June 2012. The amendment includes the self-direction option for Family Support services in the Children's Choice (CC) waiver as well as the following six new therapeutic services: applied behavioral analysis; aquatic therapy; art therapy; music therapy; sensory integration; and hippotherapy/ therapeutic horseback riding. In addition to therapeutic services, specialized medical equipment and supplies were also incorporated as an extended state plan service. Also included in the amendment are revised Home and Community-Based Services waiver licensing standards; updates of plan of care development and approvals; and selection of entrants to waiver criteria in adherence to Legislative Acts for Military Families. Staff is currently rewriting the Children's Choice waiver rule to include the new services and other program changes. Staff is required to concurrently develop the associated policies and procedures, update the provider manual, develop provider enrollment packets, identify needed system changes for implementation and develop training for families/recipients, support coordinators and service providers. In an effort to expedite utilization of services, the Self-Direction option for family supports services was separated from the larger amendment rule-making process to be submitted as an independent rule. This Notice of Intent was completed and submitted for review on November 8, 2012.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requested evidence of Children's Choice compliance with federal guidelines and assurance in preparation for the Children's Choice Waiver renewal application. The Children's Choice evidentiary report was submitted to CMS on June 1, 2012. After initial review, CMS has requested additional information (evidence) prior to waiver application renewal. OCDD staff is working with DHH's Health Standards Section, Waiver Compliance unit and OCDD's Quality Section in securing approval of the Children's Choice waiver renewal from CMS.

STATUS OF AGENCY'S ACTIVITIES ON DD COUNCIL PLAN INITIATIVES:

Access to Behavioral and Medical Intervention in the Community: OCDD continues to operate a crisis referral system that requires exploration of all possible community-based and private options prior to admission to a supports and services center (SSC) and facilitates diversion activities and assistance to avoid admissions. Sixty-seven (67) referrals for admission have occurred since January 1, 2012 which is a decrease from last year. Diversion activities continue to be successful in many instances though they are more challenging, as referrals are more focused on those individuals with the most complex support needs. Admission rate is comparable to diversion rate at this time. Primary presenting problem continues to be focused on behavioral/mental health concerns. OCDD continues to focus on more systematic referral to the resource centers for consultation and assistance in ensuring needed specialty services were in place. Resource center consultations were secured for 68% of all referrals with a higher adult diversion rate of 67% for adults who received consultation by a Resource Center clinician. Diversion rate for juveniles is not as high, but this may be attributable to lack of available community living options when the home living option is determined not viable.

OCDD continues to work collaboratively with Medicaid to assess options for offering enhanced medical care coordination for waiver recipients to improve coordination among medical professionals. The Office is also working with the Louisiana Behavioral Health Partnership (LBHP) to educate Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) and Magellan Health Services about its transition process and create opportunities for LBHP to become involved with OCDD in integrated transition planning. The Office is also using the LBHP to access behavioral health services for persons who either: (1) have not been able to access or maintain services, and/or (2) have acute psychiatric admissions post transition and can benefit from the continuity of care segment in the LBHP. Several successful collaborations have occurred and are assisting in better informing the referral and support process for individuals with both developmental disabilities and mental health concerns.

OCDD is in the process of completing an analysis of current system gaps related to supporting individuals with behavioral and medical needs within community/private living situations and research of other state programs/partnerships/approaches to building community and private provider capacity to support these individuals. The Office is working to develop a more comprehensive approach to increasing quality and access to needed medical and behavioral services within community settings. The Office has initiated a statewide workgroup to evaluate the data related to serving individuals with complex needs and to develop recommendations on the role OCDD Resource Centers may be able to play to support community providers and professionals to better serve individuals with complex needs and to support development of local partnerships and improve access to needed services. OCDD anticipates being able to provide updated analysis and proposed initiatives at the next quarterly update.

Residential Options Waiver (ROW) Renewal Status: The Residential Options Waiver (ROW) Application Renewal was reviewed by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). A Request for Additional Information (RAI), along with Clarifying Questions, was submitted to the Waiver Assistance and Compliance Section (WCS) for completion. CMS granted an extension of the waiver until December 20, 2012. The items in the RAI and Clarifying Questions which pertained to OCDD have been completed and submitted to WCS for review and submission to CMS. Once CMS approval has been obtained, any updates for rule changes and provider manual updates will be made and submitted to Medicaid for review and processing.

Direct Support Professionals' Training/Certification:

Use of Technological Solutions to increase access to training opportunities for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs):

- OCDD worked collaboratively with Health Standards to develop a DSP curriculum and with Essential Learning to convert this curriculum to an electronic learning forum for greater access to needed training for DSPs serving individuals who use self-directed services. DSPs supporting individual who use self-directed services have begun using the electronic training curriculum as a pilot. It will be assessed to determine its feasibility for self-directed services.
- As part of the response to Act 299, OCDD and Office of Aging and Adult Services are working collaboratively to expand electronic learning options beyond self-direction. A subcommittee of the larger workgroup reviewed several electronic learning packages. The

subcommittee has evaluated electronic learning options and has continued to assess potential contracting options for providers. The findings from the self-directed pilot will assist in informing the next steps in this area.

Development of Specialized Curricula for DSPs: OCDD has worked through the Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration - My Place Louisiana (My Place) to develop two specialized curricula specifically to assist in improving DSP skills in supporting individuals with complex needs - Positive Behavior Supports Curriculum and Medical/Therapeutic Supports Curriculum. Both curricula continue to be implemented by OCDD clinicians providing the training to identified providers who are agreeing to support individuals with significant medical and/or behavioral needs moving through the My Place program. The training has been well received by providers and family members and assisted in successful moves for several individuals. The My Place staff and OCDD Clinical staff are working to move forward with broader implementation including expanding the number of OCDD clinicians positioned to provide the training and partnering with providers interested in having trainers certified to teach the curricula within their own organizations. Strategies for expansion are in progress.

Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration - My Place Louisiana (My Place): The My Place staff has continued to provide pre- and post-move supports (i.e., Community Living Training and Support, Transition Maintenance, and other additional supports) to assist 104 individuals with supports and training totaling \$93,054. Direct Service Worker Specialization Training (DSWST) has been conducted for 171 provider staff. Training cost for DSW training, travel, and salary reimbursement to date is \$110,173. Follow-up trainings have been provided to agencies to address ongoing Positive Behavioral Supports (PBS) implementation needs. To date 30 people have been referred to the Housing Relocation Assistance Program (HRAP) and 29 have received lists of appropriate housing options for their review. Currently, 27 families have moved into housing located by the HRAP contractors and one (1) family has received My Place supports to purchase a home. My Place has spent \$23,117 on this program through December 11, 2012.

As of December 11, 2012, a total of one-hundred fifty-nine (159) people have transitioned to the community with My Place supports. Transition numbers for My Place to date are:

- New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) – one hundred thirty-six (136) individuals
- Children's Choice (CC) waiver – eighteen (18) children
- Residential Options Waiver (ROW) – five (5) children

Ninety-three (93) people have completed their 365 days in the My Place program and continue to receive waiver services. The OCDD My Place program transition Benchmark for 2012 is 81 transitions. At this time, My Place has transitioned 52 people during the 2012 calendar year. Of the 159 who have transitioned with My Place support, ninety-two percent (92%) remain in home and community living situations.

Last fiscal year, Support Development Associates (SDA) assisted OCDD, the two community providers identified via application process (Options and A-1), and Pinecrest Supports and Services Center (SSC) in completing more in-depth activities to become person-centered organizations. Final meetings and outcomes reviews occurred in October. OCDD is continuing to work with one of the community organizations at its request and is in communication with

the other organization to continue support for person-centered organizational goals established by each organization. The Office also continues to work with Pinecrest to implement these principles in the day-to-day processes of the SSC. OCDD successfully worked with SDA to certify six (6) trainers within the state of Louisiana to support the continuation and maintenance of these efforts.

EarlySteps: Following the implementation of the more restrictive eligibility criteria change on May 1, 2012, the EarlySteps program has 3,972 active children. This represents a decrease of 1,596 children since May 1, 2012. As of December 1, 2012, the number of children and families that have received support from EarlySteps this fiscal year is 6,291. The changes resulting from the new eligibility criteria are on target with projections for cost savings to the program.

Staff are reviewing and summarizing data for the Annual Performance Report which will be submitted to the US Department of Education on February 1, 2013. Preliminary results show that most indicators are in line with last year's performance.

Employment First/Integrated Individualized Employment: OCDD staff attended the State Employment Leadership Network (SELN) annual meeting in November where they received guidance in rate setting which will be beneficial information for the stakeholder group that will be reviewing the rates and services that are currently offered in the waivers. OCDD has been working to finalize the employment component in the Plan of Care (POC). Additionally, the Office has continued to provide employment training at the provider quarterly meetings around the state. Additional training in the area of employment will be provided over the next few months for Support Coordinators. OCDD has been working with the Work Pay\$ Coalition on the Employment Summit that will be taking place in December. The Employment First Work Group will continue to meet on at least a quarterly basis.