



State of Louisiana

Department of Health and Hospitals
Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities

Updates to the DD Council October through December 2008

Legislative Updates:

HCR 69: Study Group for Autism Spectrum Disorder: Awaiting appointment of a task force by the joint legislative committee of both the House and Senate Health and Welfare Committees.

HB 670, Enrolled Act No. 154 – Transfer of Autism Center to OCDD: The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) continues to investigate funding sources and meet with legislators regarding autism services. The Office will participate in an Autism Conference in Shreveport during January, 2009.

New Opportunities Waiver – Skilled Nursing Reimbursement Methodology: Act 19 of the 2008 Louisiana Regular Legislative Session approved increased expenditures for the equalization of the reimbursement rates for the provision of Skilled Nursing services in the New Opportunities Waiver program with the rates for skilled nursing services under Medicaid state plan extended home health services. CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) has approved the reimbursement rates. A rule is scheduled to be promulgated by the end of December with notification to providers to follow. Implementation is planned for January, 2009.

Complaint Reporting System: Work continues on OCDD's new complaint database application. The new system has been tested and recommended modifications are being made. These needed changes will delay piloting of the system until February, 2009. Full implementation of the system state wide is now targeted for April, 2009.

EarlySteps: As a result of the allocation of additional funds, the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) promulgated a Rule effective September 1, 2008 for an increase for the reimbursement rate schedule for certain services provided to infants and toddlers in the EarlySteps Program. The changes to the rates were approved by CMS during the week of 12/8/08. Payments to providers as of 12/16/08 will be at the approved rates. The services provided from 9/1/08 will be paid at the higher rate "retroactively" through a process to be determined. The System Point of Entry contracts have been approved and the invoices from July 1 through October 31, 2008 were processed and paid. EarlySteps will enroll and train providers from Pinecrest, Greater New Orleans and other Supports and Services Centers which will greatly support meeting the need for providers for EarlySteps services.

Money Follows the Person/MyPlace Louisiana: The *Money Follows the Person (MFP) Demonstration* (also called *MyPlace* or *MyPlace Louisiana*) staff has received approval of a fiscal impact statement for an emergency rule change to enable the offering of twenty Children's Choice Waiver opportunities, which have been reserved for children currently residing in nursing facilities. Phase I of the program is planned to begin in January 2009 as *MyPlace Louisiana* staff talk to children and their families in nursing facilities and offer support for *MyPlace* transitions, which should begin to occur on or after January 20, 2009.

Phase II of the *MyPlace Louisiana* program will offer additional opportunities through the Residential Options Waiver (ROW) upon approval by CMS. To date, the *MyPlace* staff has

conducted twelve Regional staff *MyPlace Louisiana* program trainings for PASARR (Pre-admission Screening and Annual Resident Review) and regional office specialists, support coordination agencies, Medicaid Waiver offices, staff, parents, family advocates, and LTC (Long Term Care) Ombudsman in OCDD Regions 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9. These specifically chosen regions have been identified as having children who are currently residing in nursing facilities, or their parents.

The *MyPlace* staff has finalized handbooks, handouts, brochures, and bulletins to be distributed to staff and families during Person-Centered Planning meetings as regional staff discuss moving children and adults into home and community based living. Two transition coordinators have been hired to provide additional services for those persons transitioning to home and community living through the *MyPlace* program. For those interested in reading more about the program, a website is available at www.myplace.org and <http://www.myplace.com>.

Rebalancing Initiative Grant: The Rebalancing Initiative Grant closed on September 30, 2008 after four years of successful operations with notable outcomes including a significant shift from institutional settings to Home and Community Based Services (HCBS), with from 63% of persons in institutional settings and 37% in HCBS at start of the grant to 59% institutional settings and 41% in HCBS at end of grant. Nearly five hundred people moved from Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with Developmental Disabilities, (ICF/DD 16+ beds) to home and community based setting during the grant period. The Money Follows the Person Demonstration's *MyPlace Louisiana* will continue in the work of the Rebalancing Initiative Grant.

National Core Indicators Project: Data from the past year's Family Surveys and Consumer Interviews will be available soon. The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities will conduct surveys and interviews again in 2009. Between January and May 2009, consumers selected from a representative sample of adults participating in Individual and Family Support, New Opportunities Waiver, Supports Waiver, and public and private Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (ICFs/DD) will be interviewed. Family surveys will be mailed in February and March 2009 to a representative sample of families of adults and children participating in EarlySteps, Cash Subsidy, Individual and Family Support, Children's Choice Waiver, Supports Waiver, New Opportunities Waiver, and public and private ICFs/DD.

Provider Quality Enhancement Initiative: Jointly with the Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS), OCDD has written the *Quality Enhancement Provider Handbook*. Statewide training was conducted with home and community services providers, support coordination agencies, and EarlySteps Single Points of Entry (SPOE) during September through December 2008. The training covered "best practices" for quality enhancement and the new requirements for submission and approval of service provider and support coordination quality management strategies and quality enhancement plans as described in the handbook,. Beginning January 1, 2009, review and approval of strategies and plans will be conducted by regional OAAS and OCDD offices. Beginning July 1, 2009, all agencies will be required to have processes consistent with the *Quality Enhancement Provider Handbook*.

Regional Quality Enhancement Initiative: OCDD has been collaborating with its Regional Offices and Human Services Districts/Authorities to develop regional performance indicators and to set up processes within each region to collect and review performance and quality data, implement remediation as needed, identify and prioritize areas for improvement, and develop and implement quality enhancement initiatives. Two new regional staff positions have been allocated to assist in the regional quality activities: a Regional Office Specialist, who will work with support coordination and provider agencies to provide technical assistance and training;

and the Quality Monitor, who will assist in developing regional data reports, facilitate the review of data reports by regional programmatic and management staff to identify trends and patterns, and assist in tracking implementation and effectiveness of quality enhancement strategies. Additionally, OCDD programmatic and quality staff will conduct annual visits to each Region/District/Authority to validate the performance data submitted, review any remediation and quality improvement initiatives, and provide technical assistance, as needed.

Mortality Review Process: Beginning July 1, 2008, OCDD implemented an ongoing mortality review process for deaths of waiver participants, which includes a Mortality Review Committee meeting monthly with the purpose of identifying the cause of death and strategies to improve the quality of care and prevent similar circumstances. Membership on the committee includes an advocate (from the DD Council), a psychologist, a registered nurse, and a quality specialist.

The committee's process of mortality review includes the review of physician and hospital records, critical incident reports, provider daily progress notes, provider training records, support coordination contact notes, death certificates, the person's plan of care, and other relevant materials, such as protective services reports, police reports, autopsy reports, et cetera. Annually, OCDD will create a Mortality Review Report to provide information on deaths by waiver, age, region, and cause of death, and will compare the waiver participant mortality rate with general population state and national mortality rates.

Support Coordination Monitoring: With assistance from the Transformation Grant Quality Consultants, OCDD and OAAS have been developing a support coordination agency monitoring protocol and monitoring tools. The monitoring system will include review of case and agency records, data from the Medicaid, the complaint and critical incident databases, and interviews with participants, support coordinators and other agency supervisory and management staff. The monitoring tools will be field tested in early January 2009 with any necessary revisions and additional testing made prior implementation. Piloting of the support coordinator tool is planned for spring 2009 with implementation targeted for July 1, 2009.

Home and Community Services Provider Revised Licensing Regulations: The Bureau of Health Services Financing (BHSF) Health Standards Section is working with Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS) and OCDD to revise the licensing regulations for Home and Community Services Providers to provide for a single home and community based services license. This license would have core requirements for all providers and modules with additional requirements for various services (e.g., personal care, respite, day habilitation, supported living) which a provider may elect to provide under the license.

Support Intensity Scale (SIS) and LA PLUS Assessments: OCDD has implemented use of the SIS and LA PLUS assessment with the incoming 2,025 New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) participants. Once linked to a support coordination agency, each new NOW participant is contacted by a certified assessor to schedule the assessment. Once completed, the assessment is sent to the OCDD SIS/LA PLUS project team for review. Barring the need for corrections or revisions, the assessments are accepted and the support coordinator is given approval to begin the process of using the assessment data for support planning purposes. Since October, nearly 190 approved assessments have been used in the planning and implementation of services. After the training and certification of core regional office staff and core support coordinator assessors, focus will be redirected to on-going assessment reliability. Assessments now being conducted for a representative sample of individuals currently residing at six of the state's public ICFs/DD. Once sampling of this population is completed, focus will shift to sampling of individuals residing in private ICFs/DD. Data will be analyzed by staff and

national consultants to determine best practices in applying resource allocation methodology to individuals using ICF/DD services. Project staff continues to work with regional office staff and support coordinators in on-going training, and are shadowing assessors to ensure reliable assessment procedures, processes, and quality data.

Resource Allocation: As a prelude to implementation of the resource allocation methodology for planning supports and services for individuals, the OCDD has provided the Bureau of Health Services Financing (BHSF) all pertinent background materials and information needed for development of an emergency rule. Approval of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget was obtained on December 19, 2008 and implementation of the resource allocation methodology for the NOW (New Opportunities Waiver) will begin once a phased-in implementation plan is approved. OCDD is working on methodologies to implement resource allocation across all settings.

Residential Options Waiver (ROW): Based on recent communications with Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services (CMS), OCDD has made three changes to the application for the ROW. Firstly, the Intensive Community Support service is being removed. The second change is the removal of the Shared Living Downsizing Option. Shared Living opportunities continue to include the conversion option for participants and providers and the non-conversion (new) option in which three persons may share a residence. Thirdly, the newly proposed effective date will be March 1, 2009. The individual enrollment of professionals and the one year experience requirement for delivery of professional services to persons with developmental disabilities included in the application remains as a primary strategy for addressing professional services needs of ROW participants.