

LOUISIANA CITIZENS FOR ACTION NOW

Advocating for Louisiana Citizens with Developmental Disabilities

OCDD's Plan to address \$18 million budget shortfall

December 3, 2010

- OCDD's Plan to Address \$18 Million Budget Shortfall
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OCDD's Plan to Address \$18 Million Budget Shortfall

The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) is being forced to make budget cuts in response to the state's budget shortfall. Instead of making additional rate cuts to community services, a decision was made to discontinue the three year phase-in of Resource Allocation for people receiving New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) services. OCDD's original phase-in plan would have allowed waiver recipients three years to reduce the number of support hours to the amount necessary for their assessed level of need. OCDD estimates there are approximately 1,950 people who are currently receiving more services than determined necessary by the assessment on the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS/LaPlus). The new plan requires that the amount of support hours match individuals' determined level of need by January 1, 2011. To arrive at this decision OCDD sought input from stakeholder groups. There was consensus among stakeholders that accelerating implementation of resource allocation was the best option because most providers of community services could not withstand additional rate cuts. The Developmental Disabilities Council participated in this stakeholder group and supports this decision.

Julia Kenny, OCDD Assistant Secretary, explained the need for this acceleration at a stakeholder meeting on November 30, 2010 in Baton Rouge. Ms. Kenny stated that OCDD is totally committed to giving individuals and their families the services that they need. OCDD representatives will hold meetings throughout the state for waiver providers, support coordinators, Families Helping Families staff, OCDD regional/districts/authorities staff and other stakeholders to explain the revisions to the resource allocation process. OCDD will also be notifying waiver recipients and their families of the impending changes by mail and through their support coordinators.

Cuts are also being made in the developmental centers to achieve cost savings. The transition of individuals from these centers to the community is also continuing, emphasizing the need more than ever to preserve our community providers and their capacity to serve people with all needs in their own homes in the community.

Any Questions?

If there are any questions about the information in this email contact LaCAN's Coordinator by replying to this email, or calling the toll free number listed below.

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