



State of Louisiana

Department of Health and Hospitals
Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities

OCDD QUARTERLY UPDATE
March 25, 2009

Waiver Services Integration into Human Service Districts and Authorities: A committee composed of representatives of DHH and Districts and Authorities has been meeting to create a template for administrative processes to facilitate the assumption of responsibilities of administration of DD services and OCDD's Home and Community Based Waivers by Human Services Districts and Authorities. This committee is finalizing language for inclusion in the Memoranda of Understanding outlining the duties and responsibilities of DHH and Human Services Districts and authorities. Plans are proceeding to transition the OCDD Region 3 office into the newly created South Central Human Services Authority by July 1, 2009, with other regions to follow.

Skilled Nursing Reimbursement Rate Increase: As published in the Louisiana Register, Vol. 34, No. 12, effective January 1, 2009, the New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) reimbursement rate was increased for skilled nursing services provided by registered and licensed practical nurses in order to equalize the reimbursement rates paid for skilled nursing services in the NOW program with the reimbursement rates paid for extended skilled nursing services provided under the Medicaid State Plan in the Home Health Program.

Rebalancing Initiative Grant/Money Follows the Person: The Money Follows the Person Demonstration (*My Place*, or *My Place Louisiana*) promulgated the rule, LAC 50:XX 1.13704 which was published January 20, 2009 in the *Louisiana Register* Vol. 35, No. 01 which created twenty prioritized Children's Choice opportunities specifically for the Demonstration to transition children from hospitals and nursing facilities. This rule allows children utilizing the Demonstration to enter Children's Choice waivers without regard to the Registry for Services' priority list. Demonstration staff visited nursing facilities in which children currently reside to share the information about the *My Place Louisiana* program and assist staff to help children and their families to take advantage of the program's home and community-based living opportunities, and conduct person-centered planning with the families with children who are transitioning. Training has been offered statewide to LTC Ombudsman and Informed Consent Administrators. Staff attended a conference in Baltimore relating to the Demonstration hosted by the *Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Money Follows the Person Grant Conference* (see <http://www.taformfp.com/TAforMFP/nationalConference.aspx>).

Complaint Reporting System: Work continues on OCDD's new Complaint Information System as the database application is nearing design and development completion. The work group is currently re-testing, developing reports, completing data definitions, writing a training manual, and finalizing the revisions to the OCDD Complaint Policy. The pilot of the new electronic database application will be delayed until June, with statewide implementation planned for September 2009.

Support Intensity Scale (SIS) and LAPLUS Assessments: Since the implementation of SIS and LAPLUS assessments for the new 2,025 New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) participants, 325 assessments have been approved to date for individuals' supports and services planning. Assessments from a representative sample of individuals currently residing at six of the state's public ICFs/DD were

completed. Project staff continues to work with regional office staff and support coordinators, and shadow assessors to ensure reliable SIS/LAPlus assessment procedures and processes.

Resource Allocation: The resource allocation model component of the *Louisiana Guidelines for Planning for Waiver Services* has not yet been implemented pending Medicaid approval. The *Guidelines*, which emphasize placing greater emphasis on adequate needs-based and personal outcomes assessment, person-centered planning, integrated work, community inclusion, use of natural and community supports, sharing supports where appropriate, participation in enriching day activities, and supports that emphasize the promotion of independence, continue to be implemented for newly designated NOW waiver recipients. Recent efforts by OCDD to promote development of quality plans consistent with the *Guidelines* included additional statewide training in February 2009 for OCDD regional office staff and support coordination agency supervisors. A replication of this training for support coordinators and additional OCDD regional office waiver staff is planned for March and April, 2009.

Support Coordination: As support coordination agencies have taken a rate cut, a study will be conducted regarding of support coordination activities, hours, and billing to determine an appropriate case load size and rate of pay per billable activity.

Quality Enhancement: Beginning January 2009, a workgroup has worked to develop quality outcome measures for the Human Services Accountability and Implementation Plan, and Supplemental Performance Indicators for OCDD system entry, EarlySteps program, DHH custody and PASARR, all of which will be presented to the Human Service Interagency Council for approval. Next to be developed will be performance indicators for waiver services. Once approved, the regional offices and Human Services Districts and Authorities will regularly report these outcomes for performance review and quality improvement. Additionally, an online database application is being designed for the regional offices, districts and authorities to record information about participants, service delivery, and quality which will include reports and documentation of quality review analysis and remediation.

Residential Options Waiver (ROW): Based on recent communications with Centers for Medicaid and 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 a non-conversion (new) option in which three persons may share a residence. Thirdly, the newly proposed effective date will be July 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.

EarlySteps: A rate increase was approved September 1, 2008 for both services and family service coordination for EarlySteps. The contractor, Covansys, who pays Part C claims, began paying the new rate for services and coordination in September 2008. Unisys, the Medicaid contractor, began paying the new rate for services December 8, 2008. Medicaid is in the process of making the system changes to pay the difference between the old and new rate from September 1 through December 31, 2008 by “recycling” the claims. Because CMS has not yet approved the support coordination rate increase, Unisys is not yet reimbursing the new rate for service coordination. When approved, those claims will be recycled back to September 1, 2008, as well as payment differential between the old and new rates. EarlySteps conducted provider training at three Supports and Services Centers to enroll providers: Greater New Orleans, Pinecrest, and Northlake. The Annual Performance Plan was submitted to the U.S. Department of Education on February 2, 2009, and is available on the EarlySteps website. The Application for Part C Funds will be posted to the website through May 18, 2009, for public comment.