



State of Louisiana

Department of Health and Hospitals Office of Aging and Adult Services

UPDATES TO THE DD COUNCIL THROUGH MARCH 2010

Legislative Issues

Legislation necessary to move the Traumatic Brain Injury Trust Fund and the Community and Family Support Program and the State Personal Assistance Services program will be in the Department of Social Services' legislative package. Funds and staff have been added to the recommended OAAS budget to complete the transfer. OAAS and DSS have established a workgroup to make the transfer as smooth as possible.

OAAS anticipates only one bill in its legislative package this year. The bill will update the nursing home resident rights statutes to bring them into conformity with federal rules. These changes also help promote nursing facility culture change, which allows a more resident-centered approach to nursing facility care.

Adult Day Health Care (ADHC)

The ADHC Advisory Council has completed its work and prepared a report. As a result of the Advisory council's work, OAAS is establishing three work groups that will implement the council's recommendations in the areas of licensing standards, rate methodology, and access.

Home and Community Based Services Re-design

OAAS continues its work to submit by the end of April a new waiver with a broad array of services that will replace the Elderly and Disabled adult Waiver. In February, OAAS presented a summary of the waiver to the joint legislative Health & Welfare Committee. The committee approved the submission of the waiver to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Dementia Training

OAAS took the lead in implementing Act 571 which mandated dementia training for all staff that works in nursing facilities and Adult Residential Care Facilities licensed by the state. OAAS signed a Memorandum of Understanding in November 2009 with Our Lady of the Lake College Health Careers Institute (OLOLC-HCI). OLOLC-HCI will approve curricula used for initial staff training, insuring that the training is evidence based and meets the criteria outlined in the statute. See www.olohlci.com for further information.

Waiver Services Update

OAAS currently administers two HCBS waivers: The Elderly and Disabled Adult (EDA) Waiver and the Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) Waiver. There are currently 825 ADHC approved slots and 4603 EDA approved slots. (150 EDA slots are dedicated to clients with Amyelotropic Lateral Sclerosis –ALS–.) As of March 16th there are 745 individuals are receiving ADHC services and 3853 receiving EDA services. . There are about 1400 people on the ADHC registry and just over 17,033 people on the EDA registry.

Money Follows the Person (MFP)

MFP staff continues to transition people out of nursing facilities and into community housing. Since last quarter an additional 8 people have left institutional care and the list of interested persons has grown from 99 to 160. Obtaining housing and getting the documents needed to apply for housing remain significant barriers to moving people into the community. Often there is a fee to purchase a copy of a birth certificate or other such document. It is difficult for a nursing facility resident to buy all of these documents out of personal funds. Clients often also need transportation to get to various offices to search for housing or apply for documents. Nursing facilities are only required to provide transportation to medical appointments. MFP staff is in the process of applying for grant funds to pay some of these costs.

Budget Issues:

The proposed budget contains a combination of increases to annualize previously approved slots for OAAS waiver programs, reductions in LT-PCS, and a 3.1% rate cut for providers. At this point the final outcome of the budget process is highly uncertain.