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Department of Health and Hospitals
Office of Aging and Adult Services

UPDATES TO THE DD COUNCIL THROUGH JUNE 2010

Legislative Issues

HB1198 by Rep. Katz has passed the legislature and been sent to the Governor. This legislation is necessary to move the Traumatic Brain Injury Trust Fund, the Community and Family Support Program and the State Personal Assistance from the Department of Social Services to OAAS. HB 1 also included the transfer of funds and staff from DSS to OAAS to implement the change. OAAS and DSS have established a workgroup to make the transfer as smooth as possible. See below for an update on the transfer as smooth as possible. See below for an update on the transfer.

SB216 by Senator Mount has been signed by the Governor and is now Act 128. This legislation makes changes to the Nursing Home Resident's Bill of Rights to bring Louisiana into compliance with federal regulations. It allows nursing home residents greater autonomy and prohibits the resident's expressed wishes from being over ridden by a physician.

HB 1185 by Rep. Nowlin, which has also been signed by the Governor and is Act 305, creates the Home and Community Based Long-Term Care Act. The Act required OCDD and OAAS to continue the implementation of resource allocation; to develop an objective formula to determine staffing needs to monitor HCBS programs; authorizes a change to the policy for allocating waiver slots; authorizes a pilot program for pre-paid long-term care services; and requires regular reports to the legislature about the cost-effectiveness of home and community based services.

OAAS was cut approximately \$ 80,000 in the final version of House Bill 1. The cut is not specific to a particular category of spending and it has not been determined how we will achieve that reduction. Likewise, the Medicaid budget "spread" among various services has not been developed as of this report. It is expected however that rate reductions and/or lowered service levels may be necessary in some or all of the Medicaid programs operated by OAAS.

Adult Day Healthcare (ADHC)

The ADHC Advisory Council has completed its work and prepared a report. The report is available on the OAAS website. 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.

Waiver Services

There are currently 825 ADHC slots approved and 4603 EDA slots approved. 150 EDA slots are dedicated to clients with Amyelotropic Lateral Sclerosis – ALS. Currently 683 individuals are receiving ADHC services. Another 146 have accepted and ADHC offer and are in the application process. There were 1,504 requestors on the registry for ADHC on 5/31/2010 and the wait time for this service is approximately eight months. For individuals with ALS there is no wait to receive and EDA offer and 91 of those slots are vacant. Finally, for the general EDA population, 4,002 persons are receiving services. Another 526 have received an offer and are in the application process. As of 05/31/2010 there were 18,357 persons on the EDA Request for Services Registry. The wait time to receive and offer is 2-3 years.

Transfer of programs from DSS

The Office of Aging and Adult Services will begin provision of services to consumers in three state funded programs on July 1, 2010. Those programs are Community and Family Support, State Personal Assistance Services and the Traumatic Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Programs. OAAS has already begun effective March 1, 2010, the provision of services to nineteen consumers in the Community and Family Support Program through a contract with the Arc of Louisiana. The transition has gone smoothly with no interruption of services. OAAS is still in the process of reviewing how the programs have been operated and exploring options for efficiencies or program improvements. The goal would be to serve more persons with a given level of funding and to improve consumer choice.

Money Follows the Person (MFP) and Nursing Home Transitions

OAAS continues to work to transition people out of nursing facilities and into community housing. In order to facilitate this process, CMS allowed states to apply for 100% administrative funding for the MFP. DHH recently received verbal approval for an additional \$ 14 million dollars in MFP administrative funds. The funds will be used for a wide variety of purposes, including adding additional personnel to facilitate transitions, providing some funding for needs not covered by waiver services, and developing curriculum materials to train Support Coordinators to improve assessment and care planning in transition cases. Quality Standards and Competency Based Testing will ensure that support coordinators have the skills that promote efficient transition to the community.

MFP staff has also recognized that funding to obtain documents such as birth certificates and to pay utility and security deposits is significant barrier for nursing home residents who are trying to return to community living. Funding has been secured from the HOME Investment Partnership Program. This funding will be used by OAAS and OCDD and will assist, at a minimum, 100 extremely low and very low-income

households, who are elderly or have disabilities with these costs. The total grant amount \$ 249,999.