

**OAAS Report to
Developmental Disabilities Council
April 2012**

Medicaid HCBS Services Update

Current Recipients

- ADHC Waiver – 697
- CCW – 4,302
- LTPCS – 14,370
- PACE - 282

Waiting Lists

- ADHC – 2,152
- CCW – 28,176

HCBS Waivers

The **ADHC Waiver** has been submitted for renewal to CMS. The waiver expires June 30, 2012.

2012 Regular Session: Legislation

500 new Community Choices Waiver slots are in the Executive Budget

The department is developing a bill to transfer the administrative functions of the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs (GOEA) to DHH. Because of ongoing stakeholder meetings regarding this bill, it was not pre-filed.

HB 591 by Rep. Simon: Updates the Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Fund program and reinforces the original intent of the law, updates the board membership, and clarifies how funds dispersed through the program can be used.

Money Follows the Person Demonstration (MFP)

172 people have transitioned to date under MFP since October 2009. There are another 161 people who have signed to participate and are in process. Benchmarks have been (slightly) exceeded and on track to reach or exceed benchmarks for the year.

ACT 299

ACT 299 required DHH to prepare a plan to address improvements in Home and Community Based services. The report was provided to the legislature on January 15th, 2012. Sub-committees continue to meet to implement the plans. The final report can be accessed on the Department of Health and Hospitals website.
(<http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/LegisReports/Act29912final.pdf>)

Traumatic Head Injury/Spinal Cord Injury.

595 individuals currently served,

43 individuals with newly opened cases,

264 individuals on waiting list

Nursing Home Quality Improvement Initiative

OAAS has convened a small workgroup to develop strategies to improve nursing home quality. Members include the Louisiana Nursing Home Association, Leading Age of the Gulf States, AARP, LEADER (the culture change coalition), Alzheimer's Services of Capital Area, eQ Health Care Solutions, the Louisiana Board of Examiners for Nursing Facility Administrators, and the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman. Plans for immediate action are to:

- encourage enrollment in the Advancing Excellence Campaign, a national voluntary effort through which nursing homes select goals for improvement and access tools to guide the work, and
- offer small grants to “incubator” nursing homes to test and measure impact of quality improvement efforts using funds collected from civil monetary penalties collected from nursing homes.

Success Story

Ms. B received multiple services from My Place Louisiana including assistance with securing a PCA and outpatient physical therapy. Ms. B is progressing nicely and taking longer walks in her living room. Her long range goal is to regain enough independence to cook biscuits in her kitchen. Cooking has been a driving force in her rehabilitation process and her motivation to return home. She is with her husband and daughter and recently gained a new niece. She is very happy to be home.

OAAS

Objective 2.1 The quality of waiver services in Louisiana will improve through the development and implementation of a comprehensive home- and community-based services plan.

Activity 2.1.1 Participate in the development of the plan mandated by Act 299 of 2011.

Outcome 2.1 The report mandated by Act 299 of 2011 was submitted to the legislature on January 16, 2012. Implementation is ongoing.

Objective 2.2 Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) serving Louisianans with developmental disabilities will receive competitive compensation.

Activity 2.2.1 Participate in and monitor activities of the Act 299 workgroup for

- the starting DSP compensation level to be at or above the national average and
- the dedication of a certain percentage of the HCBS rate to DSP costs (based on provider cost reports).
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Outcome 2.2 The Act 299 “Cost Study and Rate Reimbursement” sub-committee recommends a rate methodology to be developed in the future which takes into account actual costs of providing services. The recommendation includes that any methodology contain a mechanism to ensure adequate DSP wages.

Objective 2.3 DSPs serving Louisianans with developmental disabilities will display a minimum skills set and have access to a graduated certification process with corresponding compensation increases.

Activity 2.3.1 Advocate for

- the development of a (or use of existing) comprehensive and evidence-based training curriculum and certification for DSPs statewide and
- the implementation of graduated pay increases for DSPs to correspond with performance on a graduated certification process.

Outcome 2.3 The Act 299 Technology sub-committee has provided specific recommendations for the development of a comprehensive and evidence-based training curriculum and certification for DSP’s statewide. The implementation of graduated pay increases for DSPs is one option that could be considered as part of the developing a rate methodology. Any option is subject to available funding.

