



State of Louisiana

Department of Health and Hospitals
Office of Aging and Adult Services

OAAS Report to the Developmental Disabilities Council Through September 2010

Medicaid HCBS Services Update

The new Community Choices Waiver was submitted to CMS in late August. A response from CMS is due by late November. We are hoping for early 2011 implementation.

The Adult Residential Care (Assisted living) waiver is still under review by CMS. We submitted response to the latest set of questions in mid-September.

Current Recipients (8/30/10)

- ADHC Waiver – 686
- EDA Waiver – 4,075
- LTPCS – 11,371
- PACE -215

Waiting Lists (8/30/10)

- ADHC – 1,263
- EDA – 19,382

LTPCS Changes

In response to the cuts in the program made in the state budget, an emergency rule was enacted effective September 5, 2010 to reduce the level of services in the Long Term Personal Care Services (LTPCS) program. At the same time, OAAS enacted other rules changes to try to increase the flexibility of use of the services and to remove obstacles to the introduction of consumer direction. We hope to be able to start our long-planned consumer direction pilot in 2011.

The primary changes were:

- Simplify the resource allocation method by reducing to 5 levels, using the ADL (activities of daily living) index.
- Reduce the maximum benefit from 42 to 32 hours per week.

- Remove the prohibition that the worker cannot live in the recipient's home (to facilitate consumer-direction).
- Clarify and reinforce that legally responsible relatives/representatives cannot be the worker for LT-PCS participants.
- Remove language regarding "natural supports" that had created confusion with respect to who could be a paid worker and to eligibility for the program.

In September 2010, DHH was served with a lawsuit seeking declaratory and injunctive relief. Alleging violations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, the lawsuit seeks to enjoin the recent weekly cap reduction in LT-PCS to 32 hours and to reinstate the maximum weekly cap back to 42 hours per week. The suit was filed by the Advocacy Center on behalf of four named plaintiffs, all of whom are currently getting over 32 hours a week of LT-PCS. The lawsuit was filed in the Middle District of Louisiana and seeks class action certification.

ADHC Workgroups

As a follow-up to the Adult Day Health Care study done last year, workgroups are meeting to implement short term changes designed to improve access to adult day health services and provide relief to providers. Among the changes proposed are alternate staffing patterns for smaller facilities, regional waiting lists for waiver slots, and payment by the hour, rather than by the day.

Money Follows the Person and Nursing Facility Transition

Initiatives at the federal level are increasing emphasis on transitioning persons out of nursing homes. In addition to the Money Follows the Person demonstration, the new assessment tool nursing homes begin using October 1st has an expanded section on identifying residents who are interested in returning to the community. Homes are required to make referrals and to assist in discharge planning. OAAS and GOEA have applied for grants to help facilitate this new process.

As a result of these changes, our HCBS system is changing from one that focuses primarily on avoiding institutionalization, to one that increasingly focuses on transition. In fiscal year 2009-2010, 19% of all new EDA waiver recipients were transitioned from nursing homes. Currently about 50% of all EDA slot offers are going to persons in nursing homes. OAAS has received 197 referrals for My Place Louisiana (Money follows the Person) since October 2009. Fifty (50) persons have transitioned into OAAS services and another seven (7) has transitioned out without any services once we assisted with obtaining housing.

This has put a significant strain on resources and systems that were not designed for this. We are working to try to revise procedures and processes that impede transitions. We will continue to report on this issue.

Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund

The physical move of the program was completed on July 12, 2010. The staff, software, contracts, phone lines and files have all been successfully moved. The program is currently serving 554 individuals with 379 on the waiting list. We are currently working on filling vacancies on the Advisory Board, authorizing client service plans, and exploring ways to improve the program.

Community and Family Support (CFS) Program

Nineteen (19) consumers are currently receiving services through CFS. Consumers represent a wide range of diversity in terms of disability, including acquired brain injury, spinal cord injury, stroke, visual impairment, muscular dystrophy, and individuals with multiple disabilities.

These consumers are located primarily in the New Orleans and Baton Rouge areas. Aside from case management, primary services are rental assistance and personal care services. One each receives a medical stipend and diapers, respectively. Five individuals receive case management as the only service.

Funding for direct services through the CFS program for SFY 2010-2011 is \$248,560. It is anticipated that 100% of the funds will be expended by June 30, 2011.

OAAS has contracted with the ARC of Louisiana to administer this program. The ARC has been very proactive in getting to know the consumers, updating care plans, paying for authorized services/supplies. The ARC is also developing policies and procedures for use in administering the program.

State Personal Assistance Services (SPAS) Program

Currently ten (10) consumers are receiving services through SPAS. Funding for SPAS for SFY 2010-2011 is \$171,827. Expenditures for this program are estimated at \$4,665 per week based on prior year expenditures. It is anticipated that 100% of the funds will be expended by June 30, 2011.

The primary service provided with SPAS funding is Personal Assistance Services. In addition, case management services, information and referral and training on self-directed supports are provided as need and/or upon request.

OAAS has contracted with the ARC of Louisiana to administer this program. The ARC has been very proactive in getting to know the consumers, updating care plans, paying for authorized services/supplies. The ARC is also developing policies and procedures for use in administering the program.

Lifespan Respite Grant

OAAS was recently awarded a small grant to help encourage the development of respite services. Working with the recently-formed Lifespan Respite Coalition, this grant will assist in identifying respite providers and providing public information about available respite services. For more information contact Gina Rossi at OAAS.

Systems Transformation Grant

September 30th marked the end of DHH's Long Term Care Systems Transformation Grant. This five-year grant provided resources to help effect system improvements in OAAS, OCDD and OMH. Major accomplishments included:

1. PSH- Advocacy efforts led to 73 million from Community Development Block grants , 3000 project based vouchers, and \$150,000 for a Tenant Based Rental Program (Money Follows the Person)
2. Development of affordable housing locator—LAHousingSearch.com
3. Support Coordination Monitoring Database in .net sql
4. Participant Tracking System for both OCDD and OAAS
5. Cross-Waiver Reports—Health Indicators Report