DD Council Report
July 2012

Medicaid HCBS Services Update

Current Recipients as May 31, 2012:

- ADHC Waiver -- 659
- CCW -- 4,317
- LTPCS -- 3,558
- PACE -- 283

Waiting List as of May 31, 2012:

- ADHC Waiver -- 2,401
- CCW -- 31,660

2012 Legislative Session Recap

Act 299 - Two resolutions were passed (HR 164 and SR156) that require the department to provide an updated report on implementation of the ACT 299 plan.

Community Choices Waiver - 500 new CCW slots were approved in HB 1. OAAS is in the process of amending the waiver to add these slots.

Act 269 transitions certain functions of the Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund Advisory Board to DHH. This legislation includes the opportunity to have new members appointed to the Advisory Board. There will be two new positions appointed by the governor from nominations made from advocacy groups, one of which works with survivors or traumatic brain injuries, and one with survivors of spinal cord injuries. If you know of organizations that would like to submit nominations, they may contact Alicia Smith in OAAS.

The **State Personal Assistance Services** will continue at the current level, including continuing to serve the new individuals added to SPAS last year.

Community First Choice - 1915(k)

OAAS submitted a state plan amendment to implement a new program now allowed by section 1915(k) of the Social Security Act. The program is known in federal law as *Community First Choice*. This option will receive an additional 6% federal match. If approved, *Community First Choice* will replace the current Long Term Personal Care Services (LTPCS) state plan. All current LTPCS recipients would transfer into the

1915(k). The program provides personal care assistance, allows consumer direction, and expands eligibility. Tentative implementation date is January, 2013.

Money Follows the Person

There have been 210 transitions under MFP since the beginning of the program in 2009. An additional 5 persons are targeted to transition in the near future, with 242 in the “pipeline.”

53 individuals have transitioned since January 1, 2012, which is more than half of our benchmark of 100.

Developmental Disabilities Council Plan

OAAS Report – July, 2012

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.

Work on the plan is ongoing. Two resolutions were passed by the 2012 legislation that relate to Act 299. HR 164 Directs DHH to submit a report on the status of Act No. 299 of the 2011 R.S. SR 156 Directs the Department of Health and Hospitals to submit a report on the status of the implementation of the plan mandated by Act 299 of the 2011 Regular Session of the Legislature.

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).

An emergency rule requiring HCBS providers to submit cost reports will be published in July. The committee to look at reimbursement methodologies will begin meeting again.

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.

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