



State of Louisiana

Department of Health and Hospitals
Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities

OCDD Quarterly Update to the DD Council December 2010

Rebalancing Initiative Grant/Money Follows the Person: The Money Follows the Person Demonstration has received Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval for a revised Phase I Operational Protocol (OP) Version 1.4 which is available online at the following link:

<http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/publications/pubs-309/Ph1%20100pct%20Binder1.pdf>

The revised Operational Protocol includes \$14 millions in supplemental funding to enhance transition supports and trainings supplied by Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) and Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS). Some of the additional supports and trainings include: Direct Service Workforce Specialization Training; Family Training in Direct Care Responsibilities; Community Living Training; Health Care Communication; Physician Consultation; Provider Round Tables; Support Coordination "Core Curriculum" Training; Louisiana Housing Search; Housing Relocation Assistance; Transition Maintenance; Health Care Communication; Legal Consultation; and Facilitated Family Communication, which are all described in the OP 1.4. The Demonstration will be able to provide additional funding for pre- and post-move supports for participants and families as well as trainings for participants, families, and people who will be working with Demonstration participants. Through the Direct Service Workforce Specialization Training program, Direct Service Workers (DSWs) who work with Demonstration participants will have an opportunity to take Positive Behavior Supports (40 hours) and/or Medical/Nursing/ Physical Supports (60 hours) training courses. The Demonstration is working with the four OCDD Resource Centers on the delivery of the DSW Specialization Training. While attending these trainings DSWs will receive assistance with travel, lodging and salary. After completing the training, the DSWs will also have an opportunity to receive a DSW Sustainability Award if they work with a Demonstration participant for one full year. OCDD Demonstration staff is currently working to complete a budget authorization request to activate supplemental funding. As of December, five children had transitioned with Children's Choice (CC) waivers and three additional families have provided informed consent for their child's participation in the Demonstration. As of December 7, twenty-two people have transitioned to the community using the New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) and an additional 26 people or their families have provided informed consent for participation. The Demonstration has enrolled a total of 49 participants who moved from state-operated residential programs into the NOW. The Demonstration and Residential Options Waiver (ROW) staffs have worked with providers, and two provider agencies are reviewing and possibly completing ROW proposals to complete conversions with current group home clients.

Support Coordination Monitoring Process: The Support Coordination monitoring (SCM) process, which is designed to assure that Support Coordination Agencies providing services to waiver participants adhere to state and federal requirements, is nearing completion. The OCDD regional office staff in charge of implementing Support Coordination monitoring attended training in November, 2010. The policy and all components necessary to begin the process are in their final stages of review, and it is anticipated that statewide implementation will be initiated in the spring of 2011.

Accountability and Implementation Plan Quality Partnership: Effective fiscal year 2009/2010, regional offices and human services districts/authorities began submitting quarterly data on specified performance indicators which measure performance results on a wide range of regional functions. Each quarter, statewide results are summarized in "The Human Services Accountability and Implementation Plan (AIP) Quarterly Performance Report." Validations visits are made annually to each region, district, and authority to review and confirm performance results reported to OCDD Central Office as well as quality improvement strategies for which the performance standard was not met. Technical assistance is provided, as needed. Preliminary Quality Partnership Reports are completed for review and response following the validation visit made to each office. Final Quality Partnership Reports are released once responses are received from each office.

A workgroup has been formed to revise the current performance indicators in the AIP and also to include additional performance indicators to provide accountability in the delivery of waiver and EarlySteps services. The first workgroup meeting took place on November 9, 2010 where suggestions were offered for Individual and Family Support, DHH custody, system entry, and community-based employment performance indicators. Additional meetings are scheduled to occur from December 2010 through April 2011 to finalize revisions suggested by the workgroup. Once the operational instructions and attachments have been revised and formal approval process completed, implementation which scheduled for July 1, 2011 will begin.

EarlySteps: EarlySteps services provided in natural environments received a 2% rate cut beginning December 1, 2010. Services provided in other settings remain at current level as they had previously received a significant rate cut. Support Coordination has not received a cut to date.

Training for approximately 350 service coordinators and system point of entry (SPOE) intake coordinators will begin in January and end in April. Participants will be trained to conduct interviews with families and develop service plans using updated processes. EarlySteps central office and regional office staff will be working with the State Interagency Coordinating Council and its advisory board to plan and develop a new 3-year Strategic Plan. Staff will be conducting outreach to obtain stakeholder input for the Strategic Plan once the process is approved by the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) at its January, 2011 meeting. As of November 30, the number of children who have received EarlySteps services in the current fiscal year is 6,739.

Employment First initiative: The Louisiana Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (LAMIG) Strategic Plan for Employment for Individuals with Disabilities was submitted to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on November 30, 2010. This initiative will ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities are **first** given the opportunity to participate in supported employment or other community options for day programming before sheltered employment is presented. The initial review of the plan has taken place and their overall impression of the Strategic Plan was very positive. Louisiana was commended on the detail and comprehensiveness of the document; it was also noted that it was refreshing it was to see the strength of the partnerships between state and non-governmental agencies in Louisiana. Written recommendations/changes from CMS by are expected on January 8, 2011. Upon approval from CMS, the MIG will be moving towards making Louisiana an "Employment First" state.