



State of Louisiana

Department of Health and Hospitals
Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities

Quarterly Update to the DD Council September 2010

EarlySteps: OCDD has continued to work with Medicaid to obtain approval for the full reimbursement amount (\$21.67/15 minute unit) for support coordination as compared to the 20.21.15' unit they are now being paid. In April, the agencies were paid less than the full amount due to an error made in the request to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The application for federal Part C funds was approved in the amount of \$6,040,146. The Governor's Office of Community Programs has hired the new executive director for the State Interagency Coordinating Council, Ms Christie Smith, to replace Janet Mora; Ms. Smith will start on October 1. EarlySteps will provide support to Ms. Smith for her orientation to the EarlySteps system. The training contract has been approved; two new modules are in development with training planned for Spring, 2011. The final version of the Practice Manual has been completed and posted to the website. Training on the updates has been underway since July. A total of 9,071 children and families received services in 2009-2010. As of August 31, the number of children that have received services in this fiscal year is 4,942.

Supplemental funding for districts/authorities/regional offices: One-time funding, from the Community and Family Support Fund, has been made available through the sale of the Metropolitan Developmental Center property, and these funds are being distributed to OCDD Regional Offices, Human Services Districts and Authorities. The total amount of funds available for distribution among the agencies is \$4,119,078. A portion of total funding (\$1,080,000) will be used to fund eighteen restricted job appointments statewide for one year. The total cost associated with each position is \$60,000 with JPHSA and MHSD having one position each assigned to work in the agencies' designated geographic service areas. The others Regional Offices, Districts and Authorities will have two positions assigned to work in their designated service areas. These employees will be OCDD's employees and the funding for the positions will be maintained by and used by OCDD to fund their salaries and benefits. These positions will increase regional capacity by focusing on the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) assessment training needs, reviews, and waiver approval process.

The remaining funds will be used to fund one-time expenditures for supports and services to enable people with developmental disabilities to live more independently in the community. Some of the services include, but not limited to, transition services,

environmental adaptations, assistive technology, durable medical equipment, crisis funds, safety home monitoring systems, emergency preparedness supplies and other one-time purchases. The one-time expenditures will be utilized in accordance with Family Support Policy and guidelines. The funding will be tracked by the separate reporting category of 8150. The Developmental Disability Council's quarterly report format will be modified to include this information.

The OCDD Regional Offices were notified of the amount of funding that has been allocated to them for the one-time expenditures on September 28th. The Regional Offices will receive the authority to obligate the following funds: Region 4 - \$385,704; Region 5 - \$178,242; Region 6 - \$195,774; Region 7 - \$336,030; and Region 8 - \$286,356.

On the 8th of September, OCDD notified the Division of Payment Management to transfer the funding for the one-time expenditures to the Districts and Authorities in the following amounts: South Central Louisiana Human Services Authority - \$268,824; Metropolitan Human Services District - \$296,682; Capital Area Human Services District - \$406,158; Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority - \$363,888; and Florida Parishes Human Services Authority - \$321,420. OCDD will follow-up with the Division of Payment Management to ensure that the funds are transferred accordingly.

Revision of emergency waiver opportunity (slot) criteria and dedication of a percentage of new opportunities to emergencies: In consultation with OCDD Clinical Director and other psychology staff, the DD Council expressed concerns as to whether the existing priority criteria adequately considers families who have been getting state-funded family support and cash subsidy but who could afford to maintain their person with a developmental disability at home long-term with only these supplements (without being prioritized higher through current criteria for emergency waiver opportunities). OCDD is currently in the analysis and assessment stages of addressing this concern. An access database has been developed to review/compare the needs of current individuals' referred as they apply to the existing criteria with historical awards of Emergency Waiver opportunities. From this database analysis, the Office is proceeding to determine the adequacy of current criteria in meeting the unmet needs described above and in determining which measures are needed to revise the prioritization criteria, if any.

Stakeholder group for the new waiver opportunities (slots) allocation policy: OCDD, with input from Human Services Research Institute (HSRI) consultants, has initiated information gathering, research and study regarding the most cost-effective manner of allocating new waiver opportunities. Information regarding utilization of home

and community-based services waivers by other states is being gathered. It remains the intent of the Office (via HB 1185) to assess all persons coming up for new waivers on the Request for Services Registry (RFSR) utilizing the Support Intensity Scale/LAPlus (SIS/LA Plus), then determine which waiver most suits their individual needs. These preliminary activities will be followed with the formation of a stakeholder work group to provide input into the policy.

Self-direction availability statewide in the NOW: The New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) has been amended in order to secure Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval to implement the NOW self-direction option statewide. Consumer direction is currently offered in DHH Administrative Regions 1, 2, and 9. The following phase-in schedule has been proposed:

- By 2/1/2011 - offered in Regions 7 & 8
- By 3/1/2011 - offered in Regions 4 & 5
- By 4/1/2011 - offered in Regions 3 & 6

In order to begin implementation starting 02/01/2011, statewide training will be required for support coordinators and regional office staff. Additional training will be provided for participants/families.

Children's Choice (CC) Workgroup: Working toward implementation of workgroup recommendations including implementation of the self-direction option statewide for personal care services, the addition of specialized medical equipment and supply services, allowance for special education school training to qualify for required Direct Support Professional (DSP) training requirements, OCDD submitted the required amendment to CMS for approval of the 425 additional CC waiver opportunities (slots). This submission was followed by additional questions from CMS which were responded to by OCDD on 09/16/10. As part of the approval process, CMS has requested a conference call on 10/01/10 to allow Louisiana Medicaid and OCDD to clarify additional items within the amendment. It is anticipated that this will result in CMS' approval which is a precursor to release of the 425 CC opportunities. Because of its priority as an OCDD rebalancing initiative, the amendment to add the additional 425 CC opportunities had to receive CMS approval before amending the NOW to allow the self-direction option for personal care services and the add in of specialized medical equipment and supply services.

The DHH/Medicaid Waiver Assistance and Compliance Section has also developed a Request for Proposal (RFP) to consolidate all fiscal management services under a single "fiscal management agent" through a single contract with Medicaid to provide these services for all self-direction options statewide across Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS) and OCDD Waivers [including NOW, CC & the Residential Options waiver (ROW)]. The RFP and contract will also require the fiscal management agent to

verify criminal background checks for new Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) as well as to provide a mechanism for providing all required DSP training to those hired by self-directed waiver participants. This action should greatly streamline the self-direction process and facilitate implementation this option in the CC waiver.

ROW Status Update: OCDD has completed its implementation of the first ROW target group by successfully transitioning all persons who were receiving state-funds for Substitute Family Care (SFC)/Extended Family Living (EFL) or Host Home services into full waiver funding. Some of these individuals were newly certified into the ROW and others were receiving NOW services and using OCDD Supports and Services Centers (SSCs) as their SFC/EFL providers. Since the OCDD SSCs are no longer providing SFC/EFL services, the latter group was given the option of either transferring to private SFC/EFL providers or choosing the ROW and being served by private, newly licensed Host Home providers.

OCDD has now shifted its focus on the next two ROW target groups: Crisis Diversion and Conversion of Private ICF/DD (Intermediate Care Facility for People with Developmental Disabilities) Providers into ROW Shared Living Providers.

Rebalancing Initiative Grant/Money Follows the Person: The Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration (My Place or My Place Louisiana) received CMS approval for a revision to the Phase I and II Operational Protocols (OP), both of which are posted on the demonstration web site. The revision complied with the CMS request to alter the terms of the program; the demonstration is now providing participating states with 100% federal funding for administrative purposes and now extends through 2014 with current funding. Louisiana's revised administrative portion includes an additional \$14.4 million. Funding is focused on providing pre-move and post-move supports, as well as trainings that will enhance community capacity to support transitions. OCDD will develop and maintain curricula for support coordinators, direct service workers/providers, and family members providing direct care to persons with complex medical or behavioral support needs. Funding will also support: 1) pre-move activities such as paying for utilities deposits, birth certificates, purchasing start-up household items and up to two month's rent; 2) family counseling services for families of children moving home from nursing homes; 3) continuing the LA Housing Search web site; 4) contracting with real estate experts to assist with housing relocation; and 5) post-move access to services included in the plan of care when a Medicaid enrolled provider is not available. As of September 28, three (3) children had transitioned with Children's Choice (CC) waivers, twenty-one (21) people have transitioned to the community using NOW waivers and an additional eighteen (18) people or their families have provided Informed Consent to move from either a nursing home (child), hospital (child), or ICF/DD. OCDD's first person to transition completed his 365 day Demonstration period in August and continues to live

successfully in the community. The MFP Rebalancing Demonstration was extended to 2020 in recent Health Care Reform legislation (PPACA). DHH will continue transition efforts and is considering expansion of target groups in long-term care areas.