



State of Louisiana

Department of Health and Hospitals
Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities

Quarterly Update to the DD Council

March 30, 2011

RESOURCE ALLOCATION UPDATE: OCDD has moved into the second year implementation of the Guidelines for Support Planning and Resource Allocation System. Improvements in the assessment and planning process have resulted in expediting completion of the new assessment and planning and resource allocation. Only 781 individuals remain waiting for assessments and planning to implement the new process. Implementation of the Guidelines and Resource Allocation continue to result in cost savings allowing the OCDD to sustain supports to current recipients while continuing to certify new recipients into the NOW. More specific data regarding implementation of the Resource Allocation System is noted below.

Status of NOW participants:			
NOW - total participants	NOW participants assessed (new and participating)	NOW participants awaiting assessment	NOW participants reviewed by the Guidelines for Planning State Office Review Committee (GPSORC)
7491	6,710	781	1,700+

Cost Data:		
Average cost of new participants	Average cost of current participants	Average cost per participant SFY 2007/08
\$45,534	\$56,191	\$68,000

Summary of Outcomes for Individuals Over Resource Allocation in December, 2010:				
Individuals over resource allocation	Individuals with reductions	Individuals with neutral changes	Individuals with increases	Individuals that received additional review by GPSORC
1,950	764	363	123	700

Summary of NOW Offers from January 1, 2008 to March 30, 2011:		
NOW Offers	NOW Acceptances	NOW Certifications
6,198	3,004	3,098

EarlySteps: The application for federal Part C funds has been released for public comment with a deadline of May 10, 2011. The application is posted to the EarlySteps website at <http://www.dhhearlysteps.louisiana.gov>. The state was told to submit the application for the same amount as last year (\$6,040,146) and no other changes are proposed.

The Annual Performance Report was submitted to the US Department of Education (USDOE) for February 1, 2011. The USDOE will provide feedback during April and request any needed clarification prior to issuing its determination in June. EarlySteps demonstrated improvement in all of its performance indicators.

Training activities for support coordinators and point of entry intake coordinators in the two new modules are under way through April 15, 2011. Approximately 200 persons have participated in *The Family Assessment of Concerns, Priorities and Resources*, and *Individualized Family Service Plan Modules*.

A 2% provider rate cut was implemented on January 1, 2011 for Medicaid services and February 1, 2011 for other funding sources. The rate cut was approved by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

On May 4 and 5, 2011, EarlySteps and the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) are jointly developing a 3-year Strategic Plan. "Listening Sessions" are underway in all regions of the state to obtain stakeholder input about EarlySteps. This regional input and an online survey will be used to develop the plan. The schedule of meetings is available from each EarlySteps regional coordinator.

The request for proposals (RFP) for the Central Finance Office (CFO) has been published. Proposers must submit applications by March 30, 2011. The CFO handles the provider enrollment, service authorization and claims processing, and payment functions for the EarlySteps system.

As of March 1, 2011 the number of children that have received EarlySteps services in the current fiscal year is 7,656.

Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration - My Place

Louisiana (My Place): The My Place staff are beginning to provide additional supports and trainings using the supplemental funds to enhance transition for people served by the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities. Trainings and supports will include: Direct Service Workforce (DSW) Specialization Training; Family Training in Direct Care Responsibilities; Community Living Training; Transition Maintenance; Health Care Communication; Physician Consultation; and Facilitated Family Communication. The current Operational Protocol 1.4 which explains each of these programs in detail can be found online at <http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/?ID=309> [under Publications, click on Operational Protocol Phase I Version 1.2 (09/02/2010)].

My Place and Resource Center staffs have completed the pilot training of the Medical/ Nursing/ Physical Supports (40 hours) and the Positive Behavioral Supports (40 hours) curricula that are to be used during the DSW Specialization Training. Staff that participated in the pilot training are currently reviewing and rewriting the curricula to

enhance their effectiveness. The training will be offered to DSWs of My Place participants but will also be available to be used when training other DSWs.

My Place is also in the process of contracting with real estate agents statewide to provide Housing Relocation Assistance. Currently, the program does not have any real estate agents in regions 4, 5, and 7 and anyone willing to provide contact information for a possible real estate agent in those regions should send the agent's name and contact information to Kacey Stevens at Kacey.Stevens@la.gov or call her at 318.641.2000 Ext. 3213.

As of March 1, 2011, thirty-four people have transitioned to the community using the New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) and/or Children's Choice waiver. An additional forty-four people or their families have provided informed consent for My Place participation. My Place staff received thirteen referrals from nursing facilities and hospitals during 2010. Due to a concerted effort to inform hospitals about the My Place program, My Place has already received seven referrals from nursing facilities and hospitals during 2011. My Place staff signed up the first child in a nursing facility to a Residential Options Waiver (ROW) and is working with ROW staff to complete this transition. The My Place and ROW staffs are working with a few provider agencies that are reviewing and possibly completing ROW proposals to begin conversions with clients currently in group homes.

OCDD has partnered with national consultants, Support Development Associates, to collaborate on developing a person-centered service delivery system. Support Development Associates are nationally recognized for their work in this area and have successfully worked with many states and providers to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities. The consultants have completed two large person-centered thinking training sessions with OCDD staff at two of the remaining Supports and Services Centers (SSCs), provider organizations, support coordination representatives, OCDD regional and central office staff, and staff from three of the Districts and Authorities. An additional training is scheduled in May at Pinecrest SSC. Additional training focuses on developing person-centered descriptions for individuals who will be moving from the SSCs to other living situations to ensure that the new living situation is consistent with what matters most to the individuals along with capacity to meet their identified support needs. One training session has occurred at North Lake SSC. Two additional trainings are scheduled for April and May at Pinecrest and Northwest SSCs. In the coming weeks OCDD will be inviting providers to consider partnerships in developing person-centered organizations. Beginning this fiscal year and continuing into next fiscal year, Support Development Associates will assist OCDD and two community providers and Pinecrest in completing more in-depth activities to become person-centered organizations. National data from similar projects indicate that individuals supported by organizations who embark on the person-centered organizations activities are more satisfied with their lives, spend more time being a part of their local community, and have fewer other challenges. An overview meeting will occur on April 14, 2011 and provider selection will occur in the following weeks. Finally, OCDD is working with Support Development Associates to develop trainers within the state of Louisiana to support the continuation and maintenance of these efforts. In the

initial efforts, eight trainers have been identified statewide. Five of the eight have already attended the person-centered thinking training and will be observing training in preparation for demonstration. The additional three trainers are scheduled to attend the next training session.

Employment First: The Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG) “Work Pay\$ Employment Strategic Plan” was approved by CMS last month. The Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) will be the lead in implementing the “Work Pay\$ Employment Strategic Plan.” The MIG will have a total of 1.5 million dollars to utilize for implementing the Strategic Plan. OCDD will be working closely with MIG to ensure alignment with the MIG as OCDD moves toward becoming an Employment First state.

OCDD is working to bring training on the Employment First initiative throughout the state to support coordinators and providers, as well as individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members. This initiative supports moving more individuals receiving OCDD supports and services into competitive, community employment. OCDD’s policies and procedures as well as waivers will be updated accordingly to support this initiative.

The State Employment Leadership Network (SELN), a cross-state cooperative venture of state developmental disability agencies that are committed to improving employment outcomes for adolescents and adults with developmental disabilities, will be visiting Louisiana in April. The SELN helps states enhance their capacity to develop, implement, and support effective integrated employment initiatives designed to improve employment outcomes for individuals with developmental disabilities. During their visit, SELN will be providing technical assistance and guidance to OCDD as well as an Employment First Work Group that is composed of stakeholders, providers and individuals with disabilities and their family members, in making the transition toward Employment First

AIP Quality Partnership Update: Effective fiscal year 2009/2010, regional offices and human services districts and authorities began submitting quarterly data for 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. Validation visits are made annually to each region, district, and authority to review and confirm performance results reported to OCDD Central Office and 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 was formed and met on November 9, 2010 and January 11, 2011 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. A subcommittee of the workgroup met on February 15, 2011 and March 15, 2011 to apply revisions to the operational instructions and attachments. A final meeting is planned for April 12, 2011 to finalize these revisions. Implementation is targeted for July 1, 2011.

Support Coordination Monitoring: On March 10, 2011 OCDD conducted an informational video conference for Support Coordination Agencies regarding the upcoming implementation of the Support Coordination Monitoring Process for support coordination agencies that work with our waiver services. Regional Offices will begin this monitoring process after April 1, 2011. All Support Coordination Agencies will have an annual review monitoring before December 31, 2011.

Transition: Since 09/30/09, 144 individuals have been discharged from the three large supports and services centers (Pinecrest, North Lake, and Northwest). Seventy (or 48.6%) of these individuals have discharged to private community homes, 17 (or 11.8%) to Supported Independent Living (SIL); 9 (or 6.25%) to waiver services, 9 (or 6.25%) to large private residential facilities, and 39 (or 27.1%) to Other (e.g., out-of-state placement, nursing home, large state residential facility, hospice). Initially, most individuals and their families chose private community homes; however, presently the majority of pending moves are to settings with waiver supports. Of the 141 pending moves, 67% have indicated the desire for waiver services (84 to SIL and 10 to home with family) with only 30% indicating private community home as their choice.

During the months of January - March 2011, OCDD continued transition efforts in the three centers. Census for the centers on January 1, 2011 was 899. Since that date, 46 persons were discharged and 13 were admitted, which brings current census to 868. This is a decrease of 5% for the quarter. Of those moves:

- 20 went to private ICFs/DD (Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with Developmental Disabilities), and
- 10 utilized NOW service options (5 in SIL; 5 in waiver at home with a family member).

Leesville Residential and Employment Services (LRES) continues to operate four community homes but is moving forward with plans to convert these homes to SIL homes. Currently there are 13 residents within the four homes. Eight (8) of these individuals are planning to remain in these homes utilizing SIL supports; while 5 have chosen to pursue SIL in a different location. All moves are expected to be complete by 5/30/2011.

Acadiana Supports and Services Center continues to plan for transition of services by contract to a private provider with expected completion date of June 12, 2011. There are currently 66 individuals living at center. The contract will include oversight of services and the provision of technical support by OCDD.