



# State of Louisiana

Department of Health and Hospitals  
Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities

## Quarterly Update to the DD Council

June 30, 2011

**Employment First:** Louisiana is one of twenty-three states participating in the State Employment Leadership Network (SELN), a joint initiative of the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services. The 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, visited Louisiana in April 2011. The SELN provided technical assistance and guidance on practices and policies around employment to OCDD as well as the Employment First Work Group, as the state begins the transition to Employment First.

The Employment First Work Group is composed of stakeholders, providers, and individuals with disabilities and their family members. The Group will be assisting OCDD through review of policies and procedures, as well as the OCDD waivers, in the areas of vocational activities/employment and will be making recommendations to OCDD Executive Management as OCDD continues in the transition to Employment First. OCDD will also continue to work closely with the Work Pays Coalition to ensure alignment in the overall mission of making Louisiana an Employment First state.

OCDD continues with the Employment First training initiative for support coordinators and providers, as well as individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members throughout the state. OCDD will also be hosting "listening sessions" around the state in order to gather input regarding employment from individuals with disabilities as well as family members, providers and stakeholders.

On June 1, 2011, OCDD released its official position statement on Employment First:

***Employment will be the primary outcome for all persons receiving OCDD services who are of working age. Employment is characterized by typical jobs with competitive compensation that are fully integrated in the workplace. A more thorough implementation statement with further detailed definitions, desired outcomes and operational procedures will be released as they are finalized.***

This initiative will be launched on July 1, 2011.

**EarlySteps:** The application for federal Part C funds was submitted to the US Department of Education on May 10, 2011. (The application is posted to the EarlySteps website at <http://www.dhhearlysteps.louisiana.gov>.) Initially, the State was told to submit the application for the same amount as last year (\$6,040,146) but later received word that some additional funds were available. The final award amount is budgeted for \$6,403,256. The office should receive the award announcement by July 1, 2011.

The Annual Performance Report was submitted to the US Department of Education/Office of Special Education Programs (USDOE/OSEP) for February 1, 2011. In April, OSEP requested that the OCDD provide some minor clarification on some of its responses. Since EarlySteps had improvement in each reporting area, the program hoped for an improved determination. The announcement of the determination was received on June 20. EarlySteps received the "Meets Requirements" determination. This is the highest level a State can achieve and it is the first time that Louisiana has achieved this determination since the process started in 2004.

On May 4 and 5, 2011, EarlySteps and the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) worked together with stakeholders in the development of a new 3-year Strategic Plan. A follow-up meeting was also held on June 8 to complete the proposed goals. A draft of the plan will be presented to the SICC at its July meeting. Central and regional office staff and the SICC executive director will continue to complete the plan's implementation action items following approval.

The request for proposals (RFP) for the Central Finance Office (CFO) was received and reviewed, and a recommendation for award has been made to continue the current contractor, CSC (Computer Sciences Corporation) Covansys. Contract negotiations are almost complete. The CFO handles provider enrollment, service authorization and claims processing, and payment functions for the EarlySteps system.

The request for proposals for the ten system point of entry offices (SPOEs) has been posted. The due date for the proposals is July 8, 2011.

As of June 1, 2011 the number of children that have received EarlySteps services in the current fiscal year is 8,799.

**Residential Options Waiver (ROW) Status:** The Residential Options Waiver (ROW) rule was updated and published in the May 2011 *Louisiana Register*. Starting in April 2011, OCDD began providing services to children in nursing facilities with the first participant certified in April 2011. Additional children are in the process of becoming certified to receive ROW services. In June 2011, ROW offers to individuals in crisis situations (Crisis Diversion) were initiated. ROW offers to adults in nursing homes and individuals in ICFs/DD will begin to be made once the process is approved by OCDD and Medicaid.

**Support Coordination Monitoring:** The Support Coordination Policy was sent out for stakeholder feedback on June 7, 2011 and comments were due to Central Office by June 24, 2011 for review and possible revision. The Support Coordination Monitoring process is currently being piloted in two regions; this pilot includes entering data collected into the test database. Training will be conducted in mid-July with statewide implementation to follow.

**Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration - My Place Louisiana (My Place):** The My Place staff has used 100% of available CMS Supplemental funds to provide:

- pre-move supports [housing deposits (4); rent (9); utility deposits (1); washer (1); dryer (1); and criminal application fee (1)];
- post-move supports [rent (1); utilities (1); portable suction machine (1); briefs (3); dietary supplements (1); psychiatrist visits (3); and special devices for home (1)]; and
- Direct Service Workforce (DSW) Specialization Trainings (2).

My Place is receiving additional requests to use these supports to assist in My Place transitions. Descriptions of the trainings and supports can be found in the current MFP Rebalancing Demonstration Operational Protocol 1.4 which explains each of these programs at <http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/?ID=309> [under Publications, click on Operational Protocol Phase I Version 1.2 (09/02/2010)]. After July 2011, an updated version of the Operational Protocol, which will include additional target groups added to the OCDD My Place effort, will be added to the OCDD website.

Direct Service Worker (DSW) Specialization Training [Positive Behavioral Supports (PBS) and Nursing/Medical/Physical Supports], which has been revised, is in a test phase. PBS (16 hours) training was conducted on May 18-19, 2011 with a provider agency. The training was attended by sixteen DSWs and supervisors who will be working with persons with severe behavioral challenges who are moving from public residential centers in June. All sixteen people passed the final course assessment, and the agency will receive salary reimbursement which pays 50% of staff salary while they are attending training. Follow-up training was arranged with the agency to address ongoing PBS implementation needs.

On May 3, 2011, My Place staff conducted training for five Housing Relocation contractors who will identify accessible, affordable and safe housing for individuals attempting to transition to the community. Currently, the program does not have real estate agents in Regions 4, 5, and 7. 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](mailto:Kacey.Stevens@la.gov) or call her at 318-641-2000, Ext. 3213.

As of June 13, 2011, forty-five people have transitioned to the community with My Place supports and a waiver. Transition numbers for My Place to date are:

- New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) -- 36 people transitioned from ICFs/DD;
- Children's Choice (CC) waiver -- 8 children transitioned from nursing facilities and/or hospitals; and
- Residential Options Waiver (ROW) -- 1 child transitioned from a nursing facility.

An additional 64 people and/or their families have provided informed consent for My Place participation and are actively participating in planning their transition. At this time, the program is working with:

- 5 children in nursing homes and a hospital who will either receive CC or ROW waivers; and
- 59 people in public ICFs/DD who will receive a NOW.

To date 22 people have completed their 365 days in the My Place program and are continuing to receive waiver services. Only one person returned to a facility after transitioning; this was due to inadequacy of natural supports and was conducted as a health and safety intervention. The individual involved is very happy in her community home placement and has not requested to re-enroll in My Place. The OCDD My Place program transition Benchmark for 2011 is 66 transitions. At this time My Place has transitioned 18 people during the 2011 calendar year. We are expecting to meet Benchmark 1 for OCDD by working aggressively on quality management and tracking systems to speed up and keep transition timelines on track.

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 four large person-centered thinking training sessions with OCDD staff at each of the remaining Supports and Services Centers (SSCs), provider organizations, support coordinators, OCDD regional and central office staff, and staff from three of the Districts and Authorities. Additional trainings are scheduled in June in Alexandria and Bossier City. Much of the training to date focused on developing person-centered descriptions for individuals who will be moving from the SSCs to other living situations to ensure that the new living situations are consistent with what matters most to the individuals along with capacity to meet their identified support needs. Future trainings are focused on expanding these efforts to developing person-centered thinking skills throughout support coordination and provider communities. 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. An overview of this opportunity was provided for some provider agencies that are supporting individuals moving from our SSCs. An application process has been developed and OCDD will be soliciting applications for interested providers to participate in person-centered organizational development activities. We will also be pairing these efforts with our DSW trainings noted earlier to systematically assess efforts that may be most successful in supporting

individuals with more complex medical and behavioral needs. 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. Finally, OCDD continues to work 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. Seven of the eight have already attended the person-centered thinking training and three have observed training in preparation for demonstration. Family and self advocate opportunities are also scheduled for next fiscal year so that we continue to support individuals who receive our services to actively participate in and advocate for a truly person-centered support system.

**AIP Quality Partnership:** Effective FY 09/10, regional offices and human services districts and authorities began submitting quarterly data on performance indicators which measure performance results on a wide range of regional functions. Each quarter, statewide results are summarized in a “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 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 much smaller workgroup formed to apply revisions to the operational instructions and attachments met on February 15, 2011 and March 15, 2011 to complete this process.

Update: Several meetings were held in April, 2011 to finalize the revisions to the operational instructions and attachments. After having gone through the formal approval process in June 2011, including any additional revisions that will be made, the operational instructions and attachments for the revised AIP Quality Partnership process are planned for implementation on July 1, 2011.

Training is planned for August 2011 for Quality Specialists and backup staff in the regional offices, districts and authorities prior to October 31, 2011 when the first quarter for FY11/12 AIP Quarterly Performance Report will be due.

**Transition:** Since 09/30/09, 186 individuals have been discharged from the three large supports and services centers (Pinecrest, North Lake, and Northwest). Eighty-four (84) (or 45%) of these individuals have discharged to private community homes; 29 (or 16%)

to Supported Independent Living (SIL); 13 (or 7%) to waiver services; 10 (or 5%) to large private residential facilities; and 50 (or 27%) 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 134 pending moves, 69% have indicated the desire for waiver services (83 to SIL and 10 to home with family) with only 25% indicating private community home as their choice.

During the months of April-June 2011, OCDD continued transition efforts in the three centers. Census for the centers on April 1, 2011 was 864. Since that date, 36 persons were discharged and 15 were admitted, which brings current census to 843. This is a decrease of 4% for the quarter. Of those moves:

- 13 went to private ICFs/DD (Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with Developmental Disabilities), and
- 14 utilized NOW service options (11 in SIL; 3 in waiver at home with a family member).

Leesville Residential and Employment Services (LRES) continues to operate two community homes but is moving forward with plans to convert these two remaining homes to SIL homes. Currently there are 7 residents within the two homes. All 7 of these individuals are planning to remain in these homes utilizing SIL supports. All moves are expected to be complete by 6/30/11. LRES has successfully closed two other community homes transferring a total of 14 people (7 to SIL, 3 to private Community Homes, 4 to other supports (i.e. public ICF or discharged without services). Acadiana Supports and Services Center continues to plan for transition of services by contract to a private provider with expected completion date of July 31, 2011. There are currently 64 individuals living at center. The contract will include oversight of services and the provision of technical support by OCDD.

**Resource Allocation:** OCDD has moved into the second year of 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. Implementation of the Guidelines and Resource Allocation continues to result in cost savings allowing the OCDD to sustain supports to current recipients while continuing to certify new recipients into the New Opportunities Waiver (NOW). More specific data regarding cost savings of the Resource Allocation System are reflected in the following charts.

RESOURCE ALLOCATION SAVINGS ESTIMATES						
	SFY	PHASE-IN	ANNUALIZATION	TOTAL	SLOTS	CUMULATIVE
<b>ANNUAL SAVINGS</b>	2009-2010	-\$2,800,081.25		-\$2,800,081.25	2,013	2,013
	2010-2011	-\$13,741,817.50	-\$7,815,556.75	-\$21,557,374.25	5,637	7,650
	2011-2012	\$0.00	-\$18,700,348.50	-\$18,700,348.50	0	7,650
	2012-2013		\$0.00	\$0.00		
	SFY	PHASE-IN	ANNUALIZATION	TOTAL	SLOTS	CUMULATIVE
<b>INITIALS</b>	2009-2010	-\$2,362,204.67		-\$2,362,204.67		0
	2010-2011	-\$2,042,211.33	-\$2,142,427.33	-\$4,184,638.67	542	542
	2011-2012	\$0.00	-\$1,931,865.67	-\$1,931,865.67	0	542
	2012-2013		\$0.00	\$0.00		
SFY	PLAN SAVINGS	CUMULATIVE	EST MEDICAID SAVINGS	CUMULATIVE		
2009-2010	-\$5,162,285.92	-\$5,162,285.92	-\$4,439,565.89	-\$4,439,565.89		
2010-2011	-\$25,742,012.92	-\$30,904,298.83	-\$22,138,131.11	-\$26,577,697.00		
2011-2012	-\$20,632,214.17	-\$51,536,513.00	-\$17,743,704.18	-\$44,321,401.18		
2012-2013	\$0.00	-\$51,536,513.00	\$0.00	-\$44,321,401.18		
TOTAL	-\$51,536,513.00		-\$44,321,401.18			
SOURCE: SRI Daily CPOC Cost Report, June 2, 2011						
SAVINGS ON EXISTING PLANS						
SFY	PLAN SAVINGS	CUMULATIVE	MEDICAD SAVINGS	CUMULATIVE		
2009-2010	-\$2,800,081.25	-\$2,800,081.25	-\$2,408,069.88	-\$2,408,069.88		
2010-2011	-\$21,557,374.25	-\$24,357,455.50	-\$18,539,341.86	-\$20,947,411.73		
2011-2012	-\$18,700,348.50	-\$43,057,804.00	-\$16,082,299.71	-\$37,029,711.44		
COST AVOIDANCE ON NEW PLANS						
SFY	PLAN SAVINGS	CUMULATIVE	MEDICAD SAVINGS	CUMULATIVE		
2009-2010	-\$2,362,204.67	-\$2,362,204.67	-\$2,031,496.01	-\$2,031,496.01		
2010-2011	-\$4,184,638.67	-\$6,546,843.33	-\$3,598,789.25	-\$5,630,285.27		
2011-2012	-\$1,931,865.67	-\$8,478,709.00	-\$1,661,404.47	-\$7,291,689.74		
TOTAL ESTIMATED RESOURCE ALLOCATION PROGRAM REDUCTIONS						
SFY	PLAN SAVINGS	CUMULATIVE	MEDICAD SAVINGS	CUMULATIVE		
2009-2010	-\$5,162,285.92	-\$5,162,285.92	-\$4,439,565.89	-\$4,439,565.89		
2010-2011	-\$25,742,012.92	-\$30,904,298.83	-\$22,138,131.11	-\$26,577,697.00		
2011-2012	-\$20,632,214.17	-\$51,536,513.00	-\$17,743,704.18	-\$44,321,401.18		