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# State of Louisiana

Department of Health and Hospitals  
Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities

## Quarterly Update to the DD Council

September 30, 2011

**EarlySteps:** In July, EarlySteps received its award for federal Part C funds in the amount of \$6,403,256, representing a \$363,000 increase from the previous year's allocation.

The request for proposals (RFP) for the ten regional System Point of Entry (SPOE) contracts was posted, and responses were received on 8/22/11. Seven agencies submitted proposals for the ten SPOE regions. Following the technical review, recommendations for award have been made; they will be announced in late September 2011. The SPOEs are responsible for handling referrals, completing eligibility determination, writing service plans, and issuing service authorizations in EarlySteps.

September 6, 2011 was a "red letter" day for every Part C program in the country, including EarlySteps. After seven years of waiting following the reauthorization of the law in 2004, the US Department of Education/Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) issued final regulations for the Part C program. These regulations provide the requirements for states' operation of the program. EarlySteps staff will be very busy over the next few months participating in national conference calls to understand the regulations and revising policies and procedures to meet the requirements. When the policies and revisions are proposed, they will be published and submitted for review so that families and stakeholders can give comments. Then, any proposed revisions will be submitted to OSEP for approval.

Louisiana is planning to submit a proposal for the federal grant application: Race to the Top, Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC). This is a highly competitive proposal geared to improving kindergarten readiness for children through improvement of the quality of the state's early learning programs. The application is being coordinated through the Governor's Office and requires participation by the Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Education, and the Department of Health and Hospitals. EarlySteps is a required participating agency in the application process and through the activities of the grant, if awarded, hopes to work with the state agencies to improve access to quality child care and other preschool services for young children with disabilities. If awarded, Louisiana could receive \$60 million dollars over five years of funding. There will be opportunities for stakeholders to provide input for the application before it is submitted on October 19, 2011.

As of August 31, 2011 the number of children that have received EarlySteps services in the current fiscal year is 6,252. Last fiscal year, services were provided to 9,375 children.

**Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration - My Place Louisiana (My Place):** The My Place staff has used CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) Supplemental funds to provide pre- and post-move supports (i.e., Community Living Training and Support, Transition Maintenance, and other supports and/or trainings) to assist 33 individuals with supports and training totaling \$27,702.

Direct Service Worker (DSW) Specialization Training [i.e., Positive Behavioral Supports (PBS) and Nursing/ Medical/ Physical Supports (N/M/PS)] is beginning to increase the number of trainings offered through OCCD Resource Centers. PBS training has been conducted for 47 people and 7 individuals have participated in N/M/PS trainings. Follow-up trainings have been provided to agencies to address ongoing PBS implementation needs.

Housing Relocation (HR) contractors identify and locate accessible, affordable and safe housing for individuals transitioning into the community. To date 5 people have been referred to the HR program, and 5 have received lists of appropriate housing options for their review. Currently, 2 families have moved into housing located by the HR contractors and 3 people are preparing to move. Currently, the HR program does not have contractors in all regions of the state; however, the seven agents under contract have agreed to temporarily cover the entire state until additional contractors can be assigned. Anyone willing to provide contact information for a possible real estate agent, property manager, or other persons familiar with real estate for any region should send the person's name and contact information to Faimon Roberts with OCDD at [Faimon.Roberts@la.gov](mailto:Faimon.Roberts@la.gov) or call him at 225.342.6817.

As of September 12, 2011, a total 76 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) - 64 people transitioned from ICFs/DD;
- Children's Choice (CC) waiver - 9 children transitioned from nursing facilities and/or hospitals; and
- Residential Options Waiver (ROW) - 3 children transitioned from nursing facilities and/or hospitals.

An additional 62 people and/or their families have provided informed consent for My Place participation and are actively participating in planning their transition.

To date 24 people have completed their 365 days in the My Place program and are continuing to receive waiver services. The OCDD My Place program transition Benchmark for 2011 is 66 transitions. At this time My Place has transitioned 46 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 continues to partner 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 six 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 Human Services Districts/ Authorities. This fiscal year, Support Development Associates will assist OCDD and two community providers and Pinecrest SSC 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 SSCs. An application process has been developed, and OCDD is soliciting applications for interested providers to participate in person-centered organizational development activities. These activities will begin next quarter. These efforts will also be paired with 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. OCDD will continue to work with Support Development Associates to develop trainers within the state of Louisiana to support the continuation and maintenance of these efforts. Family and self advocate opportunities are also scheduled for next fiscal year so that we continue to support individuals who receive developmental disabilities services to actively participate in and advocate for a truly person-centered support system.

**AIP Quality Partnership:** During FY 2009-10, 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 "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 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. From November 2010 through June 2011, several workgroups met 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 operational instructions and attachments for the revised AIP Quality Partnership process became effective on August 1, 2011. Training is planned for October 2011 for the Quality Specialists and backup staff in the regional offices, districts and authorities prior to October 31, 2011 when the first quarter for fiscal year 2011-2012 AIP Quarterly Performance Report will be due.

**Support Coordination Monitoring:** The Support Coordination Monitoring Tool Process and Policy were completed and became effective on August 1, 2011. Regional Offices/Districts/Authorities were provided additional training on August 4 and August 30, 2011. OCDD has met with Health Standards regarding the transfer of monitoring support coordination agencies from Health Standards to OCDD. Regional offices/districts/authorities plan to begin this monitoring process on October 1, 2011. Once the Office monitors a support

coordination agency, Health Standards will be advised to issue the application to the agency so they can complete it and pay their licensing fee. Health Standards will continue to license any new support coordination agencies for their initial license as well as EPSDT (Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment) support coordination agencies.

**Residential Options Waiver (ROW) Status:** The Residential Options Waiver (ROW) CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) Evidentiary Report was completed in June 2011 and Medicaid has forwarded the report to CMS for review. The ROW Provider Manual is in the process of being officially issued by Medicaid. Participants continue to be provided ROW offers as they are identified (i.e., children in nursing facilities and crisis situations). Adults in nursing homes and individuals in ICFs/DD (Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with Developmental Disabilities) will be given the opportunity for ROW once the process is approved by OCDD and Medicaid.

**Transition:** Since 7/1/10, a total of 235 individuals have been discharged from the three large supports and services centers (Pinecrest, North Lake, and Northwest). Ninety-three (or 38%) of these individuals have discharged to private community homes; 55 (or 23%) to Supported Independent Living (SIL); 15 (or 6%) to waiver services; 13 (or 6%) to large private residential facilities; and 59 (or 25%) 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 95 pending moves, 73% have indicated the desire for waiver services (61 to SIL and 9 to home with family) with only 23% indicating private community home as their choice.

During the months of July- September 2011, OCDD continued transition efforts in the three centers. Census for the centers on July 1, 2011 was 843. Since that date, 45 persons were discharged and 17 were admitted, which brings current census to 815. This is a decrease of 5% for the quarter. Of those moves:

- 8 went to private ICFs/DD, and
- 27 utilized NOW service options (25 in SIL; 2 in waiver at home with a family member).

Leesville Residential & Employment Services has successfully closed four community homes transferring a total of 22 people [10 to SIL, 4 to private Community Homes, 8 to other supports (i.e. public ICF or discharged without services)]. Acadiana Supports and Services Center also successfully transitioned 62 persons to private supports by contract to a private provider. The contract includes oversight of services and the provision of technical support by OCDD.

**Employment First:** The Employment First Work Group continues to meet monthly and has recently drafted an Implementation Plan for the Employment First initiative. The plan is being reviewed by OCDD Executive Management Team and OCDD's technical assistance partner, State Employment Leadership Network (SELN).

The Work Group has also assisted in the development of the Employment "Listening Sessions" which will be held around the state in every region. The sessions are slated to begin in October 2011 with completion in December 2011. Sessions will be used to highlight individuals with jobs in the community; provide education related to OCDD's employment initiative; and gain valuable input from individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, stakeholders and providers around vocational and employment concerns. OCDD will use the information gathered to assist in policy changes, which will lead to an increased number of individuals in community employment.

Another one of OCDD's top priorities is to collect data around employment in order to gain a clearer picture of employment for individuals with developmental disabilities in Louisiana. Data collection is slated to take place during the month of October 2011.

OCDD will be partnering with the Work Pays Coalition to host an Employment First Summit on December 9, 2011. DHH's Secretary, Bruce Greenstein, will be the keynote speaker and will discuss DHH's commitment to Employment First.

The Employment First Work Group will continue to meet and provide guidance and input to OCDD as the Office works to implement the Employment First Initiative.

**Resource Allocation:** OCDD began implementation of Resource Allocation in the New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) in October 2009. During the initial implementation in FY 10, the Office provided an allowance for current recipients to "phase-in" to their recommended resource allocation level over time. Concurrently, reviews were conducted to assure the health and safety needs of the recipient are met along with negotiations to explore options that will bring the person within the recommended allocation. Nonetheless, OCDD still averaged a savings of over \$12,000.00 per recipient per year when compared to the previous fiscal year costs. This resulted in cumulative savings of \$27 million at the end of FY 11, increasing to approximately \$44 million by the end of FY 12. The NOW program expanded participation by 8.3 percent with only a .48 percent expenditure growth in FY 11. The expansion of the program through efficiencies has reduced the wait time for services by 4 years.

Resource Allocation System is noted below.

<b>Status of NOW participants:</b>			
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)
7,823	7,410	413	2,000+

<b>Cost Data:</b>		
Average cost of new participants	Average cost of current participants	Average cost per participant SFY 2007/08
\$45,952	\$55,633	\$68,000

<b>Summary of NOW Offers</b>		
NOW Offers	NOW Acceptances	NOW Certifications
8,910	1,087	7,823

To date the Guidelines for Planning State Office Review Committee has issued 14 official denials. Currently, about 7 appeals have been filed and none have gone to a hearing.