



State of Louisiana

Department of Health and Hospitals
Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities

Quarterly Update to the DD Council Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) June 29, 2012

GENERAL UPDATE ON AGENCY INITIATIVES:

Transition Status: Since 7/1/10, a total of 329 individuals have been discharged from the three large supports and services centers (Pinecrest, North Lake, and Northwest). 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 60 pending moves, 75% have indicated the desire for waiver services, 17% for private ICF/DD, and 8% have chosen an 'other' option such a nursing home or out-of-state ICF. During the previous quarter, OCDD successfully closed Leesville Residential and Employment Services by transferring 11 juveniles with significant behavioral issues to Pinecrest Supports and Services Center where these individuals are receiving the same level of individualized therapeutic services designed to meet their needs. OCDD also continued transition efforts in the three centers. Census for the centers on 7/1/11 was 842. Since that date, 136 persons have been discharged and 69 admitted, which brings current census to 775. This is a decrease of 15% for the FY 2011-2012. In February 2012, OCDD announced its proposal to privatize, by Cooperative Endeavor Agreement, North Lake SSC and Northwest SSC. The target date is 10/1/12, at which time residents will transition in place to the private provider. The private provider will have full responsibility for delivery of the ICF services and facility operations.

Satisfaction Rates for individuals assessed post-discharge indicate that people are satisfied overall in their new living situations. Baseline rates noted 89% overall satisfaction, and rates have remained consistent with a 90% rate at the one year post-discharge (assessed in June 2012).

Accountability and Implementation Plan (AIP) Quality Partnership Update: As part of the AIP Quality Partnership agreement, OCDD regional offices and human services districts/authorities continue to report quarterly on established performance indicators. The Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) Executive Management has requested that the AIP Quality Partnership Process be updated to revise and include performance indicators that are essential for reporting and review. A workgroup has revised current performance indicators to provide more accountability in the delivery of support and services. Following approvals, the revisions will be operationalized and applicable training will occur. It is anticipated that the results of the new indicators will be reflected in the October 2012 AIP Quarterly Performance Report.

Resource Allocation (RA): During the initial implementation of Resource Allocation in the New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) in FY 2009-2010, OCDD provided an allowance for current recipients to “phase-in” to their recommended resource allocation level over time. Concurrently, reviews were conducted to assure that health and safety needs of the recipient were met along with negotiations to explore options that would bring recipients within the recommended allocation. In addition to producing savings over previous costs since RA implementation, the program has expanded and reduced wait time for services by four years. (Note: The NOW program expanded participation by 8.3 percent with only a .48 percent expenditure growth in FY 2010-2011.)

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)
8,587	8,271	316	2,000+

Cost Data:		
Average cost of new participants	Average cost of current participants	Average cost per participant SFY 2007- 2008
\$45,157	\$52,310	\$68,000

Summary of NOW Offers:		
NOW Offers	NOW Acceptances	NOW Certifications
8,896	612	8,284

There are still between 300 and 400 NOW/Resource Allocation (RA) recipients who have not yet come into allocation. During this quarter, OCDD regional offices and human services districts/authorities continued to follow-up on these individuals who were given until the end of the fiscal year to explore additional recommendations from the Guidelines for Planning State Office Review Committee (GPSORC) for coming into allocation. Some are expected to come into allocation by the end of this quarter; some will reach a compromise if GPSORC recommendations were followed but not totally achieved; and some will refuse to come into allocation and appeal. In the recent past, nearly half of those filing appeals have come into allocation or achieved a compromise between the filing of the appeal and the actual hearing. Appeals are beginning to increase in the Metropolitan Human Services District, the Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority, and Capitol Area Human Services District as denial letters are disseminated.

Support Coordination Monitoring: Monitoring was initiated last quarter. All regions have monitored at least one agency in their region with the exception of one region, which has its first monitoring scheduled for July. Reports indicate that the process is working well. All Support Coordination agencies will be monitored by end of the year.

STATUS OF AGENCY'S ACTIVITIES ON DDC PLAN INITIATIVES:

Access to Behavioral and Medical Intervention in the Community: OCDD continues to operate a crisis referral system that requires exploration of all possible community-based and private options prior to admission to a supports and services center (SSC) and facilitates diversion activities and assistance to avoid admissions. Forty-six referrals for admission have occurred since 1/1/12. Diversion activities continue to be successful in many instances with admission rate being 37% to date for this period (some cases are still pending so number may change). Primary presenting problem continues to be focused on behavioral/mental health concerns. OCDD continues to focus on more systematic referral to the resource centers for consultation and assistance in ensuring needed specialty services were in place. Resource center consultations were secured in over 60% of referrals with a higher diversion rate of 71% when compared to 56% without consultation for this 6-month period.

As part of the upcoming fiscal year strategies, OCDD continues to work collaboratively with Medicaid to assess options for offering enhanced medical care coordination for waiver recipients to improve coordination among medical professionals. The Office is also working with the Louisiana Behavioral Health Partnership (LBHP) to educate Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) and Magellan Health Services about its transition process and create opportunities for LBHP to become involved with OCDD in integrated transition planning. The Office is also using the LBHP to access behavioral health services for persons who either: (1) have not been able to access or maintain services, and/or (2) have acute psychiatric admissions post transition and can benefit from the continuity of care segment in the LBHP.

OCDD is in the process of completing an analysis of the current system gaps related to supporting individuals with behavioral and medical needs within community/private living situations and research of other state programs/ partnerships/ approaches to building community and private provider capacity to support these individuals. The Office is working to develop a more comprehensive approach to increasing quality and access to needed medical and behavioral services within community settings.

Direct Support Professionals' Training/Certification:

Use of Technological Solutions to increase access to training opportunities for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs):

- OCDD worked collaboratively with Health Standards to develop a DSP curriculum and with Essential Learning to convert this curriculum to an electronic learning forum for greater access to needed training for DSPs serving individuals who use self-directed services. DSPs supporting individual who use self-directed services will begin using the courses in the upcoming FY.
- As part of the response to Act 299, OCDD and Office of Aging and Adult Services are working collaboratively to expand electronic learning options beyond self-direction. A subcommittee of the larger workgroup reviewed several electronic learning packages. The subcommittee has evaluated electronic learning options and is currently assessing potential contracting options for providers. A recommendation to the larger committee on which curriculum will best meet the needs of our system and allow for customization as needed will occur in early July.

Development of Specialized Curricula for DSPs: OCDD has worked through the *Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration – My Place Louisiana (My Place)* to develop two specialized curricula specifically to assist in improving DSP skills in supporting individuals with complex needs – Positive Behavior Supports Curriculum and Medical/Therapeutic Supports Curriculum. Both curricula have been piloted with OCDD clinicians providing the training to identified providers who are agreeing to support individuals moving through the My Place program with significant medical and/or behavioral needs. The training has been well received by providers and family members and assisted in successful moves for several individuals. The My Place staff and OCDD Clinical staff are working to move forward with broader implementation including partnering with providers interested in having trainers certified to teach the curricula within their own organization. Strategies for expansion are in progress to begin in the upcoming fiscal year.

Residential Options Waiver (ROW) Renewal Status: The Residential Options Waiver (ROW) Application Renewal application has been completed by OCDD and forwarded to Louisiana Medicaid for review. Once approved, CMS will be notified. The ROW Application Renewal due date is 10/1/12.

Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration - My Place Louisiana (My Place): The My Place staff has used CMS Supplemental funds to provide pre- and post-move supports (i.e., Community Living Training and Support, Transition Maintenance, and additional supports) to assist seventy-six (76) individuals with supports and training totaling \$63,699. Direct Service Worker Specialization Training (DSWST) has been conducted for one-hundred seventeen (117) provider staff. Training costs for DSW training, travel, and salary reimbursement to date is \$48,626. Follow-up trainings have been provided to agencies to address ongoing PBS implementation needs.

To date twenty-seven (27) people have been referred to the Housing Relocation Assistance (HRA) program, and twenty-six (26) have received lists of appropriate housing options for their review. Currently, twelve (12) families have moved into housing located by the HRA contractors and two (2) families of children receiving My Place supports are in the process of purchasing houses.

As of June 5, 2012, a total of one-hundred thirty-six (136) people have transitioned to the community with My Place supports and a waiver. Transition numbers for My Place to date are:

- To New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) – one hundred three (103)
- To Children’s Choice (CC) waiver – eighteen (18) children
- To Residential Options Waiver (ROW) – four (4) children

To date forty-four (44) 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 2012 is eighty-one (81) transitions. At this time, My Place has transitioned twenty-nine (29) people during the 2012 calendar year. Of the one-hundred thirty-six (136) who have transition with My Place support, eighty-five per-cents (85%) remain in home and community living situations.

This fiscal year, Support Development Associates (SDA) is assisting OCDD, the two community providers identified via application process (Options and A-1), and Pinecrest Supports and Services Center (SSC) in completing more in-depth activities to become person-centered organizations. The focus for the remainder of the fiscal year continues to be on implementation of person-centered thinking tools and activities within these organizations. OCDD staff will work with the organizations throughout the process to identify any statewide issues and barriers so needed systems adjustments can occur. Final meetings and outcomes reviews will be held in October of next fiscal year. OCDD is also continuing to work with SDA to develop trainers within the state of Louisiana to support the continuation and maintenance of these efforts.

EarlySteps: To meet budget requirements, EarlySteps implemented a more restrictive eligibility criteria change on 5/1/12. The change is in the criteria for Developmental Delay from 1.5 Standard Deviations on the BDI-2 in one developmental area or in a sub area to 1.5 Standard Deviations in two developmental areas. As of 6/15/12, there was a decrease in enrollment of approximately 250 children. The procedures that are being used to make the change are posted to the EarlySteps website at <http://www.earlysteps.dhh.louisiana.gov> in the "Important Information" box.

The response to Annual Performance Report for FY 2010-2011 is expected this month from the Office of Special Education Programs. The response to the State's federal application for funds, which includes policy changes to meet the requirements of the September 2011 regulations, is expected in July. Louisiana expects an allocation of \$6,459,881, which is a \$50,000 increase from last year.

As of 6/1/12, the number of children and families that have received support from EarlySteps this fiscal year is 8,989.

Employment First/Integrated Individualized Employment: The first year of OCDD's Employment First Initiative will close on 6/30/12. The following are included in last year's accomplishments:

- Defined Employment - July 2011
- Released the Employment First Position Statement - July 2011
- Partnered in the Disability Job Fairs - October 2011
- Released the Guiding Principles - October 2011
- Provided initial training with OCDD regional offices, human services districts/authorities, and Support Coordinators - December 2011
- Held regional Forums in all nine regions - December 2011
- Identified Employment Success Stories around the state - December 2011
- Partnered to complete the Employment First Summit - December 2011
- Established an Employment contact person in each region/district/authority - March, 2012
- Partnered with Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) to begin discussions on aligning Supported Employment - May 2012

The most important accomplishment is that fifty-nine additional OCDD service recipients have taken jobs in the community making at or above minimum wage since 7/1/11.

In year 2 of the Employment First Initiative, OCDD will complete the following steps:

- Finalize Implementation Plan
- Complete baseline data collection from OCDD vocational providers (Note: Have received data from 50% of the providers as of June 2012)
- Complete data sharing agreements with LRS and Department of Education (DOE)
- Complete cross train with LRS, DOE and Support Coordinators
- Complete Employment Manual for Support Coordinators
- Partner in the Employment First Summit
- Establish expert in the area of Work Incentives, etc. in the three OCDD resource centers and possibly each OCDD regional office and human services district/authority
- Align vocational definitions, rates and units across waivers, as well as add additional services such as career exploration
- Assist providers to develop plans to become Supported Employment (SE) providers
- Include employment plan in the Plan of Care for each OCDD participant
- Develop “employment teams” in each region

The Employment First Work Group will continue working with OCDD to guide the Employment First Initiative.

UPDATES RELATED TO DD COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS TO OCDD:

Emergency Waiver Revisions: Update on remaining revisions [all revisions based on input from focus groups, EW Work Group, and OCDD Executive Management Team (EMT)]:

- Language for first draft of rule change remains in progress. The draft will be shared with EW Work Group prior to OCDD EMT review.
- Edits to two elements of ranking system have been completed; manual and definitions are in progress. They will return to the Work Group when completed.
- Technical assistance is being sought to finalize formula for EW allocation, which will then go before EW Work Group prior to returning to OCDD EMT. This change will also require substantial development of procedures (i.e., when is the formula used; will there be upper or lower limits on allocated number; etc.).
- Following submission of Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) amendment and rule change, formal input will be assembled to develop a more comprehensive tracking and monitoring system for all EW applicants, including regular assessment of meaningful outcome measures.

(Note: In an effort to offer available slots in timely manner, monthly reviews continue when slots are available through attrition.)

Amending the Children’s Choice (CC) Waiver: The amendment to Children’s Choice waiver was initially submitted on 11/4/11. The amendment included the self-direction option for Family Support services in the Children’s Choice (CC) waiver as well as the following six new therapeutic services: applied behavioral analysis; aquatic therapy; art therapy; music therapy; sensory integration; and hippotherapy/ therapeutic horseback riding. In addition to therapeutic

services, specialized medical equipment and supplies were also incorporated as an extended state plan service. Also included in the amendment are revised Home and Community-Based Services waiver licensing standards; updates of plan of care development and approvals; and selection of entrants to waiver criteria in adherence to Legislative Acts for Military Families. The amendment was approved effective 6/13/12.