



State of Louisiana

Department of Health and Hospitals

Office of Aging and Adult Services

UPDATES TO THE DD COUNCIL THROUGH JULY 2009

Legislative Updates

Two bills proposed by OAAS for the 2009 regular session had been enacted by the legislature as of this writing:

- HB 405 by Katz: Legislation to clarify HCBS licensing provisions, so that it is clear that such individuals working independently do not need to be licensed as an agency. Organizations providing free services and certain others can also operate without a license.
- HB 432 (ACT 35) by Burford. Criminal background checks are expanded to include all offenses. The bill also prevents providers from hiring individuals who have a record that includes convictions for specific offenses such as cruelty to the infirm, exploitation, battery, and others.
- Two pieces of legislation of concern to DHH/OAAS/OCDD, HB 788 and HB 817 were turned into resolutions. HCR 142 requires DHH to work on new, cost-effective waiver options and to report quarterly on cost-effectiveness. HCR 190 directs to DHH to evaluate the Adult Day Health Care program and related issues.

Single Point of Entry (SPOE)

The SPOE pilot in Region 2 will begin region-wide as of July 1, 2009. All requests for OAAS Home and Community Based services will now be handled by the Aging and Disability Resource Center operated by Capital Area Agency on Aging. They can be reached at 1-800-280-0908.

Person Centered Planning

Tammi Terrell, OAAS's Person Centered Planning grant coordinator, attended additional training in New Hampshire. OAAS has already begun introducing some person-centered planning to support coordinators, but she will be conducting more training later in the year. Louisiana and New Hampshire have received a grant to research and develop or adapt a person centered model for use with the elderly.

Permanent Supportive Housing

OAAS serves as the Local Lead Agency for Permanent Supportive Housing in Region 1. At this point, 1890 units are planned, almost all in Orleans Parish (75-100 will be elderly only units). As of June 2009, about 235 persons are currently living in PSH units and receiving services in Region 1. Money Follows the Person

OAAS is stepping up implementation of the Money Follows the Person Demonstration. Celeste Henley is now the MFP Project Manager for OAAS. We are hiring a project coordinator in the Region 1 area, where MFP will work closely with Permanent Supportive Housing. Housing

vouchers have been made available for up to 40 persons transitioning out of nursing homes.
Training will be held for LTC Ombudsmen on July 1st regarding the MFP program.