



State of Louisiana

Department of Health and Hospitals
Office of Aging and Adult Services

UPDATES TO THE DD COUNCIL THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2009

Legislative Updates

The Louisiana Alzheimer's Disease Task Force (established by SCR 80 in the 2008 regular session) has completed its work and submitted its final report to Secretary Levine. The report is scheduled to be delivered to the legislature by October 1 and should appear on the DHH website shortly thereafter. The draft report makes 27 recommendations for improving care for persons with Alzheimer's and related dementias. It also references the connection between some developmental disabilities and Alzheimer's disease.

The Legislature established the Adult Day health Care Advisory Council in the 2009 regular session. The Council is assessing the operation and effectiveness of the ADHC Waiver. The Advisory Council began meetings this summer and is slated to finish its work in January.

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Re-design

OAAS convened a home and community based services re-design stakeholder work group. The group is working on developing a new, lower cost waiver that would provide a wider array of services than have generally been available in Louisiana. A broader stakeholder group to provide feedback on the proposed service array for this waiver is scheduled for Sept. 29.

Single Point of Entry (SPOE)

Capital Area Agency on Aging's Aging and Disability Resource Center began processing requests for all of OAAS' HCBS for Region 2 on schedule on July 1, 2009. They can be reached at 1-800-280-0908.

Alzheimer's Training

In order to implement the new dementia training requirements for staff of nursing facilities and adult residential care facilities, OAAS is in the process of negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding with Our Lady of Community College Health Careers Institute. OLOLC-HCI will certify that training curricula meet the statutory requirement for evidence based training in the topics required by law.

Person Centered Planning

As previously reported, developing and implementing a person-centered-planning strategy for use with older adults is an important goal. Additional case manager training will occur before the end of the year.

Money Follows the Person (“My Place Louisiana”)

The Office of Aging and Adult Services began implementation of the “My Place Louisiana” Program in August. To date, OAAS has received twenty-one informed consents from residents wanting to transition under the EDA waiver back into a community setting of their choice. The goal of the My Place Louisiana program is to offer nursing facility residents who have resided in nursing facilities for at least six months or longer the opportunity to receive services to meet their needs in their desired setting. My Place Louisiana staff is also working to find appropriate housing resources for those residents who need housing to transition. If people are interested in transitioning from nursing facilities back home they should contact Celeste Henley, My Place Louisiana Program Director for OAAS at 225-342-8493

Permanent Supportive Housing

The Office of Aging and Adult Services is the Local Lead Agency for the Region I PSH Program (Orleans, St. Bernard, and Plaquemines Parishes). Currently the program supports over 300 individuals with various disabilities (frail elderly, developmental disabilities, mental health, substance abuse, etc) in quality affordable housing. With the recent allocation of Section 8 Project Based Vouchers and Shelter + Care vouchers the program is expected to grow over the next two years to support over 2,000 individuals. DHH has begun internal meetings with consultants to develop a plan for sustaining the PSH support services once the PSH grant ends in a couple of years.