



State of Louisiana

Department of Health and Hospitals
Office of Aging and Adult Services

UPDATES TO THE DD COUNCIL THROUGH DECEMBER 2009

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Re-design

A stakeholder group has been meeting with OAAS for several months in an effort to develop additional options for OAAS home and community based services. OAAS also recently met with a broader stakeholder group including providers and participants. The result of that process is a recommendation to develop a new waiver that would replace the EDA Waiver.

The new waiver would provide a wider array of services than are currently available to the elderly and persons with adult-onset disabilities through Medicaid. There has been agreement on the array of services to be included. These include but are not limited to, personal assistance services, nursing, therapies, home-delivered meals, transportation, and assistive technology in addition to most of the services currently offered in the EDA waiver. The waiver will be designed to be cost-neutral while giving persons a wider choice of services in order to better address individual situations. The next step is that staff and consultants will begin drafting the waiver documents. It is anticipated that the waiver will be submitted to CMS in February.

Streamlining Commission Recommendations

Recommendations from the Streamlining Commission have included propositions to move several programs from the Department of Social Services to the Office of Aging and Adult Services in the Department of Health and Hospitals, including the Traumatic Brain Injury Trust Fund and the Community and Family Support Program. This transfer would be completed during the budget and legislative process in the upcoming session. Assuming these go through, OAAS hopes to closely coordinate these programs with its current programs in order to maximize the number of persons served with the available funding.

Other recommendations from streamlining have directed DHH/OAAS to continue efforts to reduce the supply of empty nursing home beds and to pilot managed Long Term Care for the elderly. Recommendations to place caps on waiver services and Long Term Personal Care Services were withdrawn by the author following discussion with OAAS and OCDD.

Money Follows the Person ("My Place Louisiana")

The Office of Aging and Adult Services began full implementation of the "My Place Louisiana" Program in August. The goal of My Place Louisiana is to offer nursing facility residents who have resided in nursing facilities for at least six months the opportunity to transition back into the community. The initial focus of the project is primarily in the New Orleans area. A major obstacle for many persons is housing. My Place Louisiana is working to find appropriate housing resources and navigate the housing application process. So far 99 people have

expressed an interest in transitioning and 7 have moved into the community. The others are still in process. If people are interested in transitioning from nursing facilities they may call the OAAS help-line at 1-866-758-4035. For more information about the program contact Celeste Henley, My Place Louisiana Program Director, at 225-342-8493.