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STATE OF LOUISIANA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND  
HOSPITALS



OFFICE FOR CITIZENS WITH  
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Quarterly Update to DD Council  
June 24, 2009

**Residential Options Waiver (ROW):** Based on recent communications with the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS), OCDD made changes to the ROW Application with the deletion of the Intensive Community Support Service and the Shared Living Services Downsizing Option. However, the Shared Living Services waiver options, the ICF/DD conversion option for residents in ICFs/DD and the New-Non-Conversion shared living waiver home for up to three persons in a residence continue to be options available in the ROW. These residential options along with the availability of other living options, Companion Care and Substitute Family Care, and the provision of needed community-based supports and services will provide the options desired by many persons with developmental disabilities and their families. The individual enrollment of professionals and the one-year experience requirement for delivery of professional services to persons with developmental disabilities included in the application remain the primary strategies for addressing the professional services needs of ROW participants. OCDD and the Bureau of Health Services Financing (La. Medicaid Program) have recently completed the conversion of the ROW application to a new CMS format, and also incorporated quality performance indicators for key assurances, which will provide objective mechanisms for assessing performance in achieving compliance related to licensing/certification, corrective action plans, service delivery, and training requirements. These latest additions required by CMS to the ROW application will require additional review and approval; therefore, it is anticipated the approval will delay the implementation of the ROW, now anticipated for September 1, 2009.

**Self-Direction:** Support coordinators and Regional Office staff in Regions 1, 2, and 9 participated in video conference training, using the new Self-Direction Employer Handbook. The training covered the new enrollment process designed to ensure participants are adequately trained by support coordinators on benefits of self-direction, participant responsibilities, and potential liabilities in order to meet the waiver assurances set by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS). Currently, there are 38 Self-Direction participants in these regions.

**Support Intensity Scale (SIS) and LAPLUS Assessments:** Since the implementation of SIS and LA PLUS assessments for the new 2,025 New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) participants in October of 2008, 579 assessments have been approved to date for individuals' supports and services planning. Effective July 1, 2009, the SIS and LA PLUS assessment will be used for support and services planning for all current and new NOW participants. OCDD staff continues to work with community service office staff, shadowing assessors for certification purposes. To date, there are 57 support coordinators and 21 OCDD staff certified to conduct SIS/LA PLUS assessments. Support coordinators and agencies continue to train and submit SIS assessments for coordinator SIS Certification to meet the deadline date of June 30, 2009, State and regional office staff continue reliability and integrity monitoring of all SIS/LA PLUS assessments.

**EarlySteps:** The rate increase for services (except support coordination) was fully implemented in March when the increased rate was paid for services billed at the higher rate from September through December. The approval from CMS for the support coordination rate changes has not been received. EarlySteps has been working on recruiting providers and the first phase of the provider training for the Supports and Services Centers completed in May added approximately 115 providers. EarlySteps support coordination agencies along with the other support coordination programs are participating in the OCDD/Medicaid Burns and Associates rate study. The US Department of Education gave Louisiana its determination for the *Annual Performance Report of "Needs Assistance"* which was similar to the previous two years. An onsite Verification Visit will be conducted by the

Department of Education in October as part of the State Performance Planning. A three-year contract with the LSUHSC Human Development Center is under development for an Autism Demonstration Project which will implement some evidence-based service delivery beginning in Regions 1,2,3,9,and 10.

**OCDD Integrated Information Data System** The Office takes a major leap forward with its OCDD Integrated Information Data System with the development of a new, participant record database. The database moves from its current design phase into the programming phase beginning July 1, 2009. Timelines for testing and implementation of multiple modules have been designed and the projected date of the first module launch will be January 2010, with completion and total implementation of all modules by the end of the FY 2009-2010. This project is significant in that it replaces a legacy information system with an advanced, comprehensive record of a person's participant in the developmental disabilities service system through the life span of the participant.

**Rebalancing Initiative Grant/Money Follows the Person:** The MFP Demonstration (My Place Louisiana) currently has a program manager and two transition/quality management coordinators working to identify individuals who can use Children's Choice waivers to move to the community. Rule LAC 50:XX 1.13704, published on January 20, 2009 in the *Louisiana Register* Vol. 35, No.01 created 20 MFP prioritized Children's Choice opportunities for the Demonstration to use to transition children from hospitals and/or nursing facilities, allowing those children the Children's Choice Wavier without regard to the Registry. The staff has visited the five nursing facilities to share the MFP Demonstration program with the staff and ask for their participation in sharing the opportunities and visited with four families about moving their child from a nursing facility or hospital to home. Staff provided Webinar training to LTC Ombudsman statewide and additional training for Informed Consent Administrators. A MFP staff member attended the CMS MFP conference in Baltimore.

**Waiver Services Integration into Human Service Districts and Authorities:** The committee composed of representatives of the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) and the Districts and Authorities has completed its mission of formulating a draft Memorandum of Understanding to effect the transition of administration of the State's various Waivers into the existing and proposed Districts and Authorities. The full draft is now ready to be presented to the Human Services Interagency Council at its July, 2009 Meeting

**Resource Allocation:** The resource allocation model component of the *Louisiana Guidelines for Planning for Waiver Services* will be implemented subsequent to CMS approval. Through the use of the *Guidelines*, greater emphasis is placed on adequate needs-based and personal outcomes assessment, person-centered planning, integrated work, community inclusion, use of natural and community supports, sharing supports where appropriate, participation in enriching day activities, and supports that emphasize the promotion of independence. Statewide training efforts on the *Guidelines* were ongoing over the past three months resulting in additional support coordinators, supervisors, and regional waiver staff becoming proficient in the new planning techniques. The new planning process is currently being used for all newly designated NOW waiver recipients but until we have CMS approval we have not yet implemented the resource allocation component.

**Quality:** Effective May 18, 2009, OCDD established a new position within the office to direct OCDD goals and objectives to address abuse and neglect. Included will be the development of a strategic plan that incorporates nationally recognized best practices and evidence based outcomes and other proactive strategies. Results from the National Core Indicators (NCI) for Fiscal Year 2007/2008 have been received from the NCI Project. Louisiana performed first among states for the *Child Family Survey* and second among states for the *Adult Family Survey*. On the *Family Guardian Survey* and the *Adult Consumer Interview Survey* the score was average compared to other states. The four national survey reports are used to compare the Louisiana results with the results of other participating states. The results from the NCI family surveys and consumer interviews that were conducted for Fiscal Year 2007/2008 are now posted on the OCDD website quality page. Effective July 1, 2009, community providers, support coordination agencies, and EarlySteps SPOEs will be required to have Quality Enhancement (QE) Processes and QE Plans consistent with the Quality Enhancement Provider Handbook. Training on this

handbook was provided last fall. The Handbook can be accessed at the OCDD website quality page. Any provider or support coordination agencies or EarlySteps SPOEs can access technical assistance regionally from the Quality Assurance Monitor. A new quality review process will be implemented regionally beginning July 1, 2009 to obtain performance data related to waiver Level of Care and Plan of Care sub-assurances. The review will involve selecting a random sample of initial plans of care and annual updates approved during the previous quarter and conducting a case record review in the OCDD regional office. The review will include the timeliness and accuracy of level of care determinations, documentation of a assessments to identify participants needs and personal goals and plans of care that address the identified needs and personal goals, and documentation that the participant was offered freedom of choice. The reviews will be completed by regional Quality Assurance Monitors and Waiver Supervisors.

Visit OCDD's quality web page at <http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/page.asp?ID=77&Detail=8933>

#### **Legislative Update:**

**SB 191** – This legislation gives OCDD and OAAS the authority to access directly, without additional consent, health records from hospitals, physicians, and therapeutic practitioners for the year prior to death and the death certificate of persons supported for the purpose of mortality reviews. This legislation has been adopted and is pending an ACT number.

**HB 554** – This legislation states that Volunteers shall not be liable during a declared state emergency except for gross negligence or misconduct. This legislation has been adopted and is pending an ACT number.

**HB 405** – This legislation redefines home and community based service providers to include persons employed as part of a department authorized self direction program not being required to be licensed to be reimbursed for said services under the Medicaid program. This legislation has already been adopted is now ACT 96.

**HB 432** – This legislation gives makes it mandatory that if persons that have been convicted of certain crimes the employer cannot hire or contract or grant a waiver to such person for employment. Past legislation required background checks before hiring of staff but did not prohibit them from being employed. This legislation has adopted and is now ACT 35.

**HB 837** – This legislation transfers the Office of Mental Health and Office for Addictive Disorders into a newly-created Office of Behavioral Health. The consolidation of these two offices will offer less redundancy and greater benefits to Louisiana citizens in need of these services. This legislation has been adopted and is pending an ACT number.

**SCR 42-** This resolution requests that the Department of Health and Hospitals collaborate with the Division of Administration to develop and implement a plan for the reorganizations of Louisiana's Supports and Services Centers. The resolution is pending house final passage.

**SCR 116-** This resolutions directs that savings generated from cost effective practices in the New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) program be maintained in the NOW program. This resolution is pending house final passage.

**HCR 142-** This resolution directs the Department of Health and Hospitals continue to implement approved cost control mechanisms in the Long Term Care Personal Care Services (LTPCS) program, the Elderly and Disabled Waiver (EDA) and the New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) and to provide for progress reports to the legislature. This resolution has been adopted.