

**Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD)**

**QUARTERLY DD COUNCIL REPORT**

(Submitted for 4th Quarter 2015)

December 18, 2015

**SERVICES**

**Developmental Disability Waiver Activities**

The following figures reflect waiver activities for state fiscal year 2014–2015 (7/1/14 - 6/30/15):

<b>WAIVER</b>	<b>Offers**</b>	<b>Linkages</b>	<b>Certifications</b>
<b>NOW</b>	771	544	439
<b>Children’s Choice/CC-425</b>	590	363	336
<b>Supports</b>	886	279	205
<b>ROW</b>	0	0	0

*\*\* This is the number of unique individuals made an offer or final offer during this time period.*

The following figures reflect waiver activities thus far in state fiscal year 2015-2016 (7/1/15 - 12/17/15):

<b>WAIVER</b>	<b>Offers**</b>	<b>Linkages</b>	<b>Certifications</b>
<b>NOW</b>	90	203	181
<b>Children’s Choice/CC-425</b>	326	207	75
<b>Supports</b>	1,199	385	86
<b>ROW</b>	0	0	0

*\*\* This is the number of unique individuals made an offer or final offer during this time period.*

The following figures reflect total waiver numbers as of 12/17/15:

<b>WAIVER</b>	<b>Total # Slots Allocated</b>	<b>Total Participants linked, but not certified</b>	<b>Total # Certifications</b>	<b>Total # Vacant Slots</b>
<b>NOW</b>	9,032	117	8,667	248
<b>Children’s Choice/CC-425</b>	1,475	150	1,203	122
<b>Supports</b>	2,050	295	1,659	96
<b>ROW</b>	210	0	28	182

**Request for Services Registry (RFSR) as of 11/30/15:**

- New Opportunities Waiver (NOW): 13,445
- Supports Waiver: 1,461

### **Pinecrest Supports and Services Center (PSSC) - Transition Status**

The following figures reflect transition activities from 1/1/15 thru 12/11/15:

- The census of Pinecrest Supports and Services Center to date is 415.
- In 2015, PSSC has admitted 51 individuals and discharged 38.
- Additionally, 38 participants are planning for a transition from the center.
- Six participants are projected to move to waiver supports or private intermediate care facility (ICF) supports within the next quarter.
- The overall satisfaction rate for individuals leaving PSSC assessed one year post-discharge is 91 percent.

### **EarlySteps**

- The EarlySteps program is currently providing services to 4,632 children.
- The statewide staff and stakeholder planning team, including State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) members, met on 10/13/15 and 10/14/15 to address the evaluation component for Phase II of the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP).
- In November, a team of SSIP workgroup co-chairs, lead agency staff, and the SICC Executive Director attended the Family Outcomes Cross State Learning Collaborative sponsored by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Technical Assistance (TA) Centers. “Learning Collaboratives” is a new technical assistance model to assist states in the development of their SSIPs. Since the main focus of Louisiana’s work is to *“improve child outcomes through supports that are focused on family concerns, priorities, and resources provided through a team-based approach,”* this learning collaborative of about ten states working in the same area is a good match to support the EarlySteps SSIP work. The general consensus of the Louisiana team was that EarlySteps has made excellent progress in developing its plan timelines and requirements when compared to some of the other states. Workgroups will meet again on 1/14/16 to finalize the SSIP evaluation component for the 4/01/16 submission.
- Data analysis for the Annual Performance Report is almost complete. Most of the indicators show improvement. An executive summary of the results will be presented to the SICC on 1/14/16, prior to the 2/1/16 submission. In June, the state will receive a determination based on the performance results.
- Louisiana has received the application packet for the Federal IDEA Part C funds. Because Congress has not approved the 2016-2017 budget, the states are expected to submit their requests for the current year funding level. For Louisiana that amount is \$6,412,027. Once the final budget is announced the allocation will be amended. The application will be posted for public comment in February and notices will be sent out for stakeholders to provide input.

## **Residential Options Waiver (ROW)**

- The ROW rule was finalized and published in the November 2015 *Louisiana Register*, which included the following addition and amendments.
  - Addition of two Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) services
    - Housing Transition Services - Assists participants who are transitioning into a PSH unit, including those transitioning from institutions to secure their own housing, and
    - Housing Stabilization Services - Assists participants to maintain their own housing as described in their plan of care.
  - Amendments to the Residential Options Waiver (ROW) Rule as follows:
    - revision of the provisions governing the allocation of waiver opportunities and the delivery of services in order to provide greater clarity;
    - revision of the allocation of waiver opportunities in order to adopt criteria for crisis diversion;
    - clarification of the provisions governing the Developmental Disabilities Request for Services Registry (RSFR);
    - clarification of adult dental services accessible to participants;
    - clarification of expectation of host home provider/host family to inspect/report significant changes which may impact ROW participants; and
    - inclusion of person-centered language edits.
- A ROW Waiver Amendment was posted for public comment from 10/08/15 through 11/18/15:
  - Approximately 250 people who have an OCDD statement of approval (SOA) are currently receiving services through the Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS) Community Choices Wavier (CCW) or Adult Day Health Care Waiver (ADHC). One component of the waiver amendment is to allow for the transition of these individuals from the OAAS waivers to the ROW waiver, where they will be more appropriately served.
  - The amendment also adds a new service - Adult Day Health Care (ADHC).
  - The posting may be found at web link:  
<http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/1991>.
  - A public hearing was held on 11/25/15. There were no comments received from the public during this hearing; however, comments were received from stakeholders outside of the public hearing.
  - As a result of stakeholder input, the amendment document was modified to include priority groups for transition, rather than reserved capacity groups, and to create a ROW registry. People with statements of approval (SOA) for the OCDD system who are currently on the OAAS Community Choices waiver waiting list (RFSR) will be moved to a ROW waiting list.
- ROW Conversion:
  - While OCDD continues its effort to encourage the ICF/DD providers who have voiced interest in the conversion from ICF/DD to ROW over the past year, there are currently no providers actively working toward this conversion.
- ROW Provider Enrollment:

- There has been a substantial increase of personal care assistance (PCA) provider enrollments during the quarter. As a result of recent regional outreach efforts, ROW participants will have greater freedom of choice.

### **Children’s Choice (CC) Waiver**

- The Self-Direction option for Family Support services in the Children’s Choice (CC) waiver began in February 2014. Currently, there are **forty-nine** CC waiver participants enrolled in Self-Direction across the state.
- Provider enrollment continues to be ongoing.
- An update to the provider enrollment packet for Music Therapy is being implemented in an attempt to get more providers enrolled throughout Louisiana.
- Updates to the Children’s Choice Provider Manual and Children’s Choice waiver documents have been made and are posted on OCDD’s website. Waiver related documents and forms are available for download. Related links:  
[http://www.lamedicaid.com/provweb1/Providermanuals/CCW\\_Main.htm](http://www.lamedicaid.com/provweb1/Providermanuals/CCW_Main.htm)  
<http://dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/218>

## **INITIATIVES**

### **Employment First/Supports Waiver**

- Implementation of the “Path to Employment” form, which will be used by support coordinators to facilitate a conversation about employment with every participant, will be initiated on 1/1/16.
- Implementation of the changes being made to the Supports Waiver, including the unit changes and reserved capacity groups, will take effect on 4/1/16. Training was provided 11/30/15 and additional training will be offered prior to implementation.
- The “rough” draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS), OCDD, Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) and Medicaid services has been submitted to OCDD executive management for review. This MOU contains information from the Workforce Innovation Opportunities Act (WIOA), which will improve employment outcomes for individuals with developmental disabilities. OCDD continues to work closely with LRS to improve our partnership in providing services to individuals with developmental disabilities.
- OCDD completed the Employment Roundtables in all regions, which included vocational providers, LRS, and Support Coordinators. These roundtable meetings were meant to facilitate open discussions among providers and to answer questions about the changes that will be needed in order to come into compliance with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Settings Rule, specifically to day and employment services and to enhance partnerships.
- One-on-one technical assistance continues with vocational providers throughout the state and will continue upon request by providers. Training to stakeholders will continue upon request.
- OCDD has planned a training event, which is scheduled for 1/19/16, with the two Louisiana Benefits Planning Programs (i.e., the Advocacy Center and the

Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center). This training will be broadcasted statewide and will provide basic training on Social Security Benefits Planning to Support Coordinators, OCDD providers and the Local Governing Entity (LGE) offices.

- OCDD is in the process of planning training that will be broadcasted statewide for all participants and families with the goal of sharing changes that are occurring, specifically with employment services, and changes that may be occurring within the facilities and the provision of services. OCDD is working on a Vocational Provider Panel Discussion that will be broadcasted statewide affording service providers an opportunity to discuss their programs and how they have started planning, and in some cases, already implemented changes in order to meet compliance with the CMS Settings Rule. And finally, training for Support Coordinators on various items related to the CMS Settings Rule is being planned with a focus on person-centered planning. OCDD anticipates these trainings to start occurring within the next few months.
- Improving opportunities for employment for individuals with developmental disabilities continues to be one of OCDD's top priorities.

### **Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration (My Place Louisiana) as of 12/15/15**

- MFP activities provided:
  - Pre- and post-transition assistance requests total 306 with 165 My Place participants receiving assistance (Note: Many participants have made multiple requests.)
  - Direct Service Worker (DSW) Specialization Training for 269 provider staff and family members
- Housing Relocation Assistance Program (HRAP) activities included:
  - 61 referrals for HRAP
  - 45 people receiving lists of appropriate housing options for their review
  - 34 families or individuals have moved into housing located by the contractors
- Total of 268 people have transitioned to the community with My Place supports:
  - New Opportunities Waiver (NOW): 230 individuals
  - Children's Choice (CC) Waiver: 29 children
  - Residential Options Waiver (ROW): 9 children

### **System Transformation**

System Transformation activities completed in the fourth quarter of 2015:

- Work on the proposed system for prioritization of persons on the Request for Services Registry (RFSR) has continued. The prioritization tool has been initiated with individuals who currently have a support coordinator and are on the RFSR during their annual plan of care meeting in order to begin gathering information on support needs of individuals waiting for New Opportunities Waiver services. Beginning December 2015, support coordinators will be submitting data to Central Office on a monthly basis to identify the number of prioritization tools completed and the outcome of the tool.

- OCDD continued work on a consolidated home and community-based services waiver. This consolidated waiver will be a 1915 (C) waiver, and it will integrate services currently utilized across all four waivers into one waiver utilizing a modified resource allocation system.
- In addition to the above, System Transformation activities related to data system improvements were continued during this past quarter. A Request for Proposal (RFP) for a new incident management system was submitted, and a vendor was selected. OCDD and OAAS will be working to implement these changes with the new vendor. This new data system will incorporate improvements to incident reporting and tracking proposed in 2014 as a part of System Transformation.
- OCDD continues to encourage providers to submit voluntary information utilizing the established provider questionnaire so that individuals and families can have a resource to assist in selecting a provider through Freedom of Choice. To date, sixty providers have submitted the questionnaire that is available on OCDD's webpage.

### **Medication Administration**

- The Medication Administration program, which was developed by DHH and the Louisiana State Board of Nursing and approved by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN) Board of Directors, will be piloted for individuals in self-direction starting in January or February 2016. The pilot will run for a three month period, and three regions have been selected for the pilot. OCDD will be meeting with the two Support Coordination agency executive directors on 12/18/15 to begin the process.

### **Certified Medication Attendant (CMA) Program**

- OCDD issued a second letter to all providers via blast fax on 9/29/15 to reiterate emergency rule changes to the Certified Medication Attendant (CMA) Program, which primarily impacts expiration dates and recertification requirements. This letter was a follow up to the 10/30/14 announcement that the program would be extended from one year to two years. Provider agencies must ensure that the program changes are communicated to their CMAs and all nurses involved in the training of CMAs.
- To date, there are 4,475 active CMAs in the CMA database. There are currently 344 CMAs whose certificates are expired. Providers are urged to check CMA expiration dates to ensure that they are in compliance with the rule. It is incumbent upon providers to have a system in place to track expiration dates for their CMAs and to ensure the requirements for recertification are met.
- CMA program staff continues to receive requests for certificate re-prints from CMAs whose employers are not giving them their certificates. Section 915 A of the CMA Course Guidelines states, "The Central Office coordinator will issue two certificates: one for the CMA, and one for the requesting provider agency." Therefore, providers are required to keep one original certificate on file and must distribute the second certificate to the CMA. Agencies must adhere to these guidelines. Processing a third certificate for the CMA presents a strain on OCDD resources and increases our processing time for other requests. If an agency hires a CMA who was trained by a previous employer, the agency that

hires the CMA must request that a CMA verification form be issued rather than a re-printed certificate. CMAs who request a duplicate certificate for a prospective employer will be instructed to refer the prospective employer to CMA program staff to comply with our verification process.

- OCDD conducted a CMA nurse instructor training and authorized 25 new instructors to teach the CMA curriculum.
- The CMA program staff is in the process of filing a large volume of hardcopy records, which must be retained.

### **Access to Behavioral and Medical Intervention in the Community**

The following information outlines Resource Center activities inclusive of crisis referral and trends associated with placement requests to OCDD Central Office, as well as provides an update on the Resource Center and Local Governing Entity collaboration on the Non-Consensual Sexual Behavior (NSB) process through the third quarter of 2015 (1/1/15 – 9/30/15): (Note: Reporting is on last full quarter.)

- There have been 130 crisis referrals, with 32% of these individuals requiring admission to Pinecrest Supports and Services Center (PSSC).
- Last year's trend relative to persons being referred from other more intensive and institutional-type settings has continued through this reporting period, with 54% of referrals coming from institutional/acute care settings. Further breakdown within these settings reveals that 31% of these referrals were from psychiatric hospital settings, 3% of persons were in psychiatric residential treatment facilities at the point of referral, 5% were for persons who were incarcerated, 13% were supported in ICF/DD settings, and 2% of persons were in acute care hospitals.
- 118 out of 130 cases (91%) referred for admission received a crisis consultation from the Resource Center, with the ability to divert 69% of these individuals from long-term institutionalization.

Efforts toward assuring that persons with a history and/or current challenges related to non-consensual sexual behavior (NSB) have access to the needed supports remain ongoing. This quarter's data revealed that 201 persons are receiving follow up by the Local Oversight Team (LOT). Since the initiation of the NSB process, only 18 persons have had a subsequent incident of NSB, and all but two persons had waiver supports at the time of the incident (one individual was residing in a community home and the other individual was living at home without waiver supports). For these persons, not all incidents involved direct contact. Five of the 18 incidents occurred during the third quarter (6/30/15-9/30/15). Three of these individuals remained in the waiver program; one individual was incarcerated and then returned to waiver; and one was admitted to a psychiatric hospital. It should be noted that on average, between 5% and 20% of known adult sex offenders will be re-arrested for a new sex crime within three to six years of follow up [Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA), 2010]. Given that the NSB process encompasses a broader definition than just persons arrested for sex offenses (i.e., NSB includes sexual behavior that jeopardizes the safety of another and/or places an individual at risk for contact with law enforcement and includes persons whose needs require a level of oversight to reduce the risk to others.), the 11% rate of a subsequent NSB event is still lower than the reported average re-arrest rate. Involvement of the LOT has allowed for

enhanced responsiveness in several situations as the individual's NSB-related support needs increased.

Although the official transition from the Louisiana Behavioral Health Partnership (LBHP) to Bayou Health has occurred, OCDD continues to collaborate with the Office of Behavioral Health and Medicaid relative to triaging and coordinating services for persons with complex support needs. Additionally, OCDD has begun partnering with the DD Council to develop training and consultation to build provider capacity to support persons with complex needs.