

Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD)

QUARTERLY DD COUNCIL REPORT

(Submitted for 1st Quarter 2014)

March 26, 2014

SERVICES

EarlySteps

- The EarlySteps program is currently providing services to 4,186 children.
- Family Cost Participation (FCP) became effective 10/01/13. As of 03/01/14, three statements have been sent out to families to bill for services.
- A state-wide staff and stakeholder planning team, including State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) members, has continued to meet regarding Phase 1 planning for the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP). This plan is a newly required priority of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). Three workgroups were identified to address proposed areas of focus: improving child and family outcomes, professional development, and system equity. All three full workgroups will meet prior to the SICC meeting on 04/09/14. OSEP has still not issued the final requirements for the SSIP process.
- The Annual Performance Report was submitted in February 2014. OSEP will give the State an opportunity to respond to any questions regarding the report in April 2014. The determination of performance will be issued in June 2014.
- The state's proposed application for Federal Funds is available for public comment until April 20, 2014. It posted to the EarlySteps website at: <http://www.earlysteps.dhh.louisiana.gov>. The final award amount has not been determined so the application is budgeted for the same amount as last year (\$6,221,213). It is possible that Louisiana will receive a 5% increase based on the 2014-15 Federal budget allocation. The increase would replace the 5% cut imposed last year due to the Federal sequestration cuts.

Children's Choice (CC) Waiver

- The self-direction option for Family Support services in the Children's Choice (CC) waiver began in February 2014.
- Six new therapeutic services (applied behavioral analysis; aquatic therapy; art therapy; music therapy; sensory integration; and hippotherapy/therapeutic horseback riding) have also been implemented. Provider enrollment continues to be ongoing.
- In addition to therapeutic services, specialized medical equipment and supplies were also incorporated into the Children's Choice waiver. This service is currently available to Children's Choice Waiver participants.

- An amendment for Permanent Supportive Housing was submitted to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and approved. This service began in January 2014.
- A request amendment was submitted to CMS on 9/19/13 for Children's Choice Chisholm Class members to be given a Children's Choice Waiver opportunity to access needed Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA)-Based Therapy. This Amendment was approved in December 2013. The initial Chisholm Class member/participant was admitted to the Children's Choice waiver and began ABA Therapy in December 2013.
- Working with other staff in Medicaid, the OCDD Program Manager has completed update of waiver manual along with related forms and policies/procedures. Provider Enrollment with system changes is ongoing. Training for families, support coordinators and Local Governing Entity staff was completed in December 2013 for all new Children's Choice waiver services.
- Children's Choice Waiver Renewal was submitted to CMS on 12/18/13. An initial Request for Additional Information (RAI) was received on 2/17/14. OCDD with other Medicaid staff are currently preparing a response.
- The Children's Choice waiver renewal date was 2/21/14. DHH requested and received approval from CMS to extend the waiver to 7/1/14 in an attempt to align DHH waiver programs' start dates.

Residential Options Waiver (ROW)

- A ROW Application amendment has been submitted to CMS to add two additional Permanent Supportive Housing Services (PHS) to the ROW Waiver:
 1. Housing Transition Services – Assists participants who are transitioning into a PSH unit, including those transitions from institutions to secure their own housing, and
 2. Housing Stabilization Services – Assists participants to maintain their own housing as described in their plan of care.OCDD staff will draft rule that correlates to the ROW Application amendment pending CMS approval.
- OCDD has been in discussions with a number of ICF/DD providers across the state who voiced potential interest in the ROW Wavier Conversion from ICF/DD.

Pinecrest Supports & Services Center (PSSC) Transition Status

- The census of Pinecrest Supports and Services Center to date is 398.
- In 2014, PSSC has admitted 11 participants and discharged 6 participants.
- Additionally, 35 participants are planning for a transition from the center.
- Four 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 assessed post-discharge is 91%.

INITIATIVES

Employment First

- OCDD continues to provide trainings around the state on Employment First at Families Helping Families trainings and with Louisiana Rehabilitation Services Regional Offices' staff and OCDD providers.
- The Supports Waiver Renewal was submitted in March 2014 with an effective date of July 2014. Vocational services were redefined to better align with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) new guidelines promoting community employment.

Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration (My Place Louisiana)

- MFP activities provided:
 - Pre and post move support for 134 My Place participants
 - Direct Service Worker (DSW) Specialization Training for 242 provider staff
- Housing Relocation Assistance Program(HRAP) activities included:
 - 51 people being referred
 - 46 people receiving lists of appropriate housing options for their review
 - 32 families moving into housing
 - 1 family receiving My Place supports to purchase a home
- A total of 188 people have transitioned to the community with My Place supports:
 - New Opportunities Waiver (NOW): 161 individuals
 - Children's Choice (CC) Waiver: 19 children
 - Residential Options Waiver: (ROW): 8 children

Access to Behavioral and Medical Intervention in the Community

A statewide workgroup has been established to research better ways of serving individuals with complex needs and to support the development of local partnerships and improve access to needed services. Based upon the proposal drafted by the workgroup, the Resource Centers have begun focusing on the following activities:

- Behavioral health relative to crisis service mobilization and diversion (priority focus), working in partnership with the Human Services Districts/Authorities;
- Provision of court-ordered evaluations and services, inclusive of DHH commitments and evaluations required by law for persons with dangerous behaviors found not competent to stand trial;
- With decreased emphasis on provision of direct behavioral health services, increased efforts have been directed toward supporting private providers to succeed in serving individuals with complex and dangerous problem behavior;
- When necessary, direct services for persons with life threatening problems requiring behavior supports continue to be provided (Note: For nearly all of these

individuals, there is no comparable treatment resource available, and many services required for stabilization are non-billable.);

- Triage efforts to address extensive wait lists for behavioral health services as part of wait list reduction efforts;
- Piloting of new capacity-building efforts, which move from simple classroom training for staff to a mentoring relationship with private providers, which include training, consultation, and more extended collaboration; and
- Efforts aimed at protection of the public from potential sexual offenders.

State-wide roll out for these activities is underway, and outcome data will be reported for these activities over the next fiscal year. The workgroup is in the process of finalizing remaining activity descriptions and implementation related to other activities.

Medication Administration

- During the quarter, OCDD has continued to work with the Support Coordination agencies and the Local Governing Entities (LGEs) (via phone and e-mail contacts) to respond to requests for clarification of points of the rule requirements following previous quarter training.
- Beginning in April 2014, a workgroup comprised of the State Board of Nursing, Health Standards, OAAS, OCDD, providers, support coordination, provider organization representatives, State Nursing Association, and Home Health agencies will meet to go over the current medication administration rule, will look at what is working and what is not working, and will then make recommendations for improvement.

Certified Medication Attendant Program Updates

- There were two Train-the-Trainer classes for Certified Medication Attendant (CMA) Nurse Instructors during the quarter:
 - A training class was held at the Bihary Vocational Center in Zachary, LA on Thursday, 02/06/14; there were 35 participants in attendance.
 - A training class was held at the Pinecrest Gym in Pineville, LA on Friday, 02/07/14; there were 35 participants in attendance.
 - Both of these classes had a lower attendance than was expected. We had received a number of calls asking for the class.
- Per rule, OCDD is required to teach the CMA Instructor Training once annually. However, the Office is still receiving requests for more Instructor Training Sessions to authorize new instructors to teach the CMA program and is constantly assessing the demand to determine if another course should be offered in the near future.
- The annual deadline for recertification of CMAs was 10/31/13, and there were approximately 1,600 CMAs recertified. OCDD is still receiving recertification request post deadline. In addition, the Office is also processing a significant number of Initial Certifications Requests.

System Transformation

- Core Advisory Stakeholder Committee meetings were held on 2/10/14 and 2/28/14. Additional meetings are planned for 3/14/14 and 3/28/14.
- New to the System Transformation Stakeholder participation are monthly meetings of the Executive Directors of the ten Local Governmental Entities (LGEs) who have met with OCDD Executive Management staff on 11/21/13, 12/19/13, 1/16/14 and 2/20/14 with an additional meeting planned for 3/20/14. The OCDD Executive Management team suggested to LGE Executive Directors that their staff be added to System Transformation Workgroups to provide feedback on certain issues. The LGE Executive Directors agreed with the concept of adding staff to Workgroups and fifty LGE staff members are now attending five System Transformation Workgroups.
- A Large Stakeholder Meeting is planned for Monday, 03/31/14 in Room 118, Bienville Building, Baton Rouge.

Information about MLTSS may be found online by visiting:

<http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/1684/n/379> . Public comments and feedback are being accepted at LongTermCare@la.gov.

Information about system transformation progress can be found on the OCDD website: <http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/1731>

Inquiries can be made at: ocddsystemtransformation@la.gov. The Office will be working with stakeholder groups such as the DD Council to provide input on further development of system transformation. Anyone who wishes to receive direct updates or to participate as part of our focus groups in development should send e-mail request to: ocddsystemtransformation@la.gov