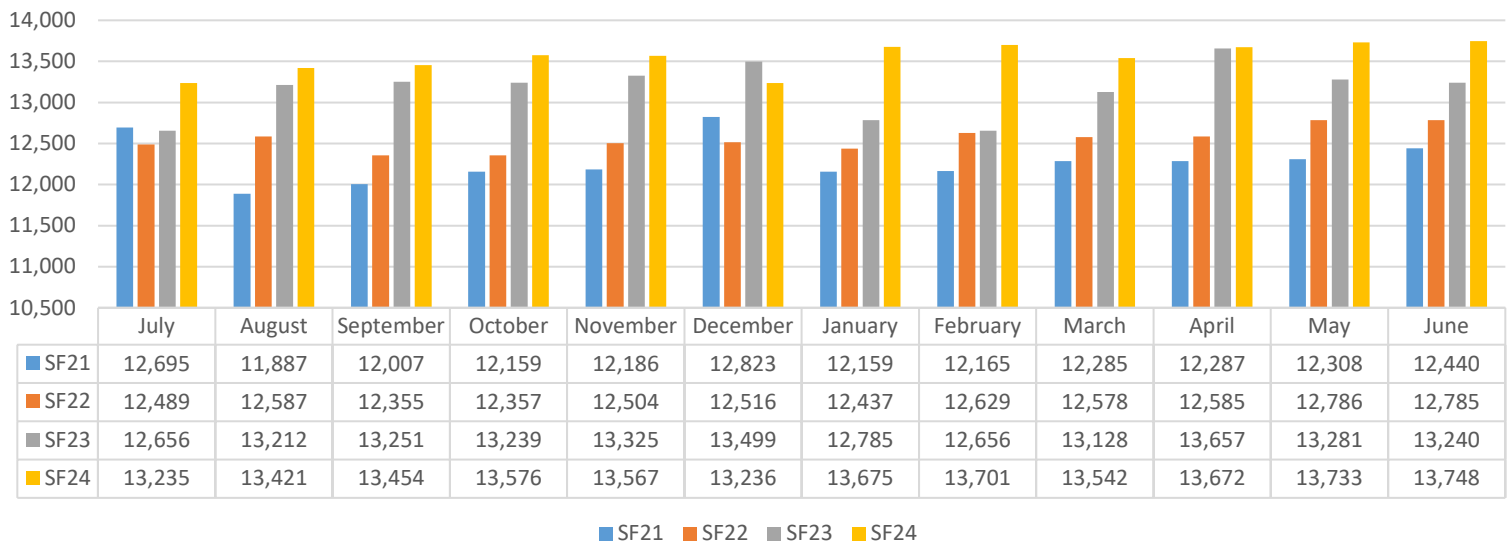


**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL QUARTERLY REPORT  
FOR THE 2nd QUARTER OF 2024  
July 5, 2024**

**Services Data**

**Waiver Participant Data**

**Unduplicated Paid Recipients**



**\*Unduplicated Paid Recipients – monthly total of people who received a paid waiver service (by date of payment).**

**Annual number of waiver individuals receiving paid services:**

SFY21 – 12,283  
 SFY22 – 12,551  
 SFY23 – 13,161  
 SFY24 – 13,547

**Waiver Individuals Receiving Paid Services by Race**

Region	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Asian Indian	Asian Unknown	Black or African American	Chinese	Japanese	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Other Asian	Other Pacific Islander	Other Unspecified	Vietnamese	White	Grand Total
1	2		4	641						3		199	849
2	2		20	1003						2		705	1,732
3	19		4	441								686	1,150
4	9		5	830						1		1,256	2,101
5	1		4	192								467	664
6	5		1	280						1		426	713
7	4		2	551								430	987
8	2		3	559								456	1,020
9	5		2	394			2			2		1,184	1,589
10	4		11	493						4		650	1,162
<b>Grand Total</b>	53	19	56	5,384			2			13		6,459	11,967

**\*Note: The breakdown of race in this table reflects those categories for which there is an identified member. There are some duplicates, as some people self-report to be in more than one category.**

Waiver Service Payments



**\*Waiver Services Payments – the amount paid for all waiver services for each month (by date of payment).**

**Annual Totals for Waiver Services Payments:**

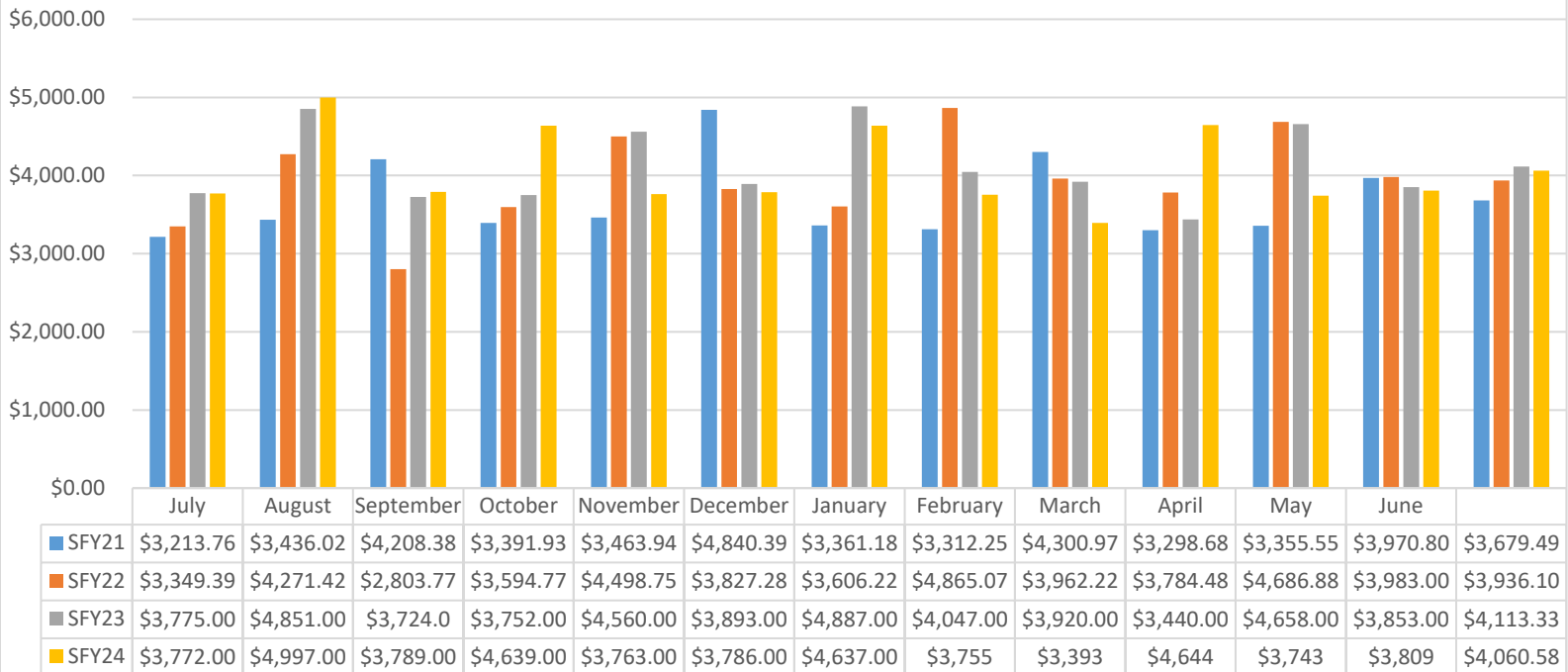
SFY21 - \$45,243,530

SFY22 - \$49,451,481

SFY23 - \$54,467,531

SFY24 - \$55,015,563

Average Cost Per Recipient



**Annual Average Cost of Waiver per Recipient:**

SFY21 - \$3,679.49

SFY22 - \$3,936.10

SFY23 - \$4,113.33

SFY24 - \$4,060.58

**OCDD Participant Data**

**Screening for Urgency of Need (SUN)**

The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) uses the Screening for Urgency of Need (SUN) to identify if an individual with a statement of approval has unmet needs for support that can be met through Home and Community Based Waiver Services (HCBS) and to connect individuals and families with other services for which they may qualify. If an individual has urgent or emergent unmet needs, they receive an offer for a home and community based waiver.

An initial SUN screening is completed with all individuals who are eligible for OCDD services and who request waiver services unless the individual/guardian does not respond or declines to participate. In addition, follow-up SUN screenings/re-screenings are completed for two reasons:

- Systematic follow-up for individuals with previous SUN scores of 0, 1, or 2; and
- The individual has requested a re-screen due to a change in status.

In the past, OCDD asked for a certain number of waiver slots per year. Now that we have shifted to the tiered (most appropriate) waiver process, OCDD offers waiver services based on the identified budget. At this time, OCDD continues to be able to offer waiver slots to all individuals who are identified as having urgent or emergent unmet needs. OCDD closely monitors the budgeted dollar amount and expenses to ensure that we are able to continue to offer waiver services to these individuals.

<b>CURRENT QUARTER DATA: APRIL 1, 2024 TO JUNE 27, 2024</b>	
<b>Number of administrations by SUN score</b>	<b>Total</b>
Score of 4, unmet needs at the Emergent level	123
Score of 3, unmet needs at the Urgent level	167
Score of 2, unmet needs at the Critical level	147
Score of 1, unmet needs at the Planning level	82
Score of 0, no identified unmet needs	451
<b>Total</b>	<b>970</b>

The table below indicates the totals for initial screenings and re-screenings.

<b>Reason for Screening</b>	<b>Total</b>
Initials	559
Re-Screenings	411
<b>Total</b>	<b>970</b>

Waiver offers are made to all individuals with a SUN score of 3 or 4, so no individual with current unmet needs is on the Registry. As of May 31, 2024, the current total number of individuals listed in the DD Request for Services Registry (Registry) is 13,288<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> The total number of individuals listed in the Registry will fluctuate due to new additions, closures, and post-closure re-opens. Reasons for closures include no response to SUN contact attempts; no response to validation contact attempts; loss of eligibility; confirmed out-of-state for reasons not related to military, treatment unavailable in Louisiana, or disaster displacement; no response to out-of-state letter; death; individual request; no response to waiver offer after second attempt; declining a waiver offer; and accepting a waiver offer. Records closed due to no response will maintain their waiver request date in the event of a post-closure re-open.

## EarlySteps Participant Data

### Early Steps Participants Data:

Child count as of June 1, 2023: 6,258

Child count as of June 1, 2024: 6,371

### Referrals for the second quarter:

- Referrals April 2024: 1,381
- Referrals May 2024: 1,319
- Referrals June 2024: 912

### Eligible children with active IFSP (June 1, 2024)

Region	Age 0	Age 1	Age 2	Total
1	56	127	265	448
2	120	341	693	1,154
3	89	217	428	734
4	106	267	484	857
5	37	111	158	306
6	42	63	110	215
7	71	215	313	599
8	65	120	179	364
9	142	333	604	1,079
10	65	177	373	615
<b>Total</b>	793	1,971	3,607	<b>6,371</b>

## **OCDD QUARTERLY ACTIVITIES**

### **Waiver-Related Activities**

#### **Employment**

- The new day and employment service array went into effect on April 1, 2024.
- OCDD added the following waiver services:
  - Community Life Engagement Development (NOW, ROW, and SW)
  - Community Life Engagement 1:1 (ROW and NOW)
  - Community Career Planning 1:1 (ROW and NOW)
- The following services received a rate increase:
  - Community Career Planning 1:2-4 (NOW, ROW, and SW)
  - Onsite Prevocational 1:5-8. (Rates were equalized across waivers)
- To better support the path to employment, OCDD broke down the individual supported employment (SE) service into the following five services and implemented them across the NOW, ROW, and SW.
  - Work-Based Assessment
  - Job Development/Placement
  - Initial Job Support
  - Extended Job Support
  - Follow Along Support
- OCDD will provide trainings and technical assistance around these services provided to LGEs, providers, and support coordinators to ensure that the services are being used effectively.
- OCDD received funding from the Money Follows the Person (MFP) program to provide the 40-hour core SE training to providers, which is required to deliver the individual SE service array. This training is part of an initiative to increase capacity statewide for supported employment providers.
- OCDD continues to participate with the State Employment Leadership Network (SELN) in monthly group webinars, monthly one-on-one technical assistance (TA) and an annual meeting, all with a focus on improving employment and community outcomes. SELN works to provide the necessary guidance for implementation of new policies and procedures around community and employment services.

#### **Supports Waiver (SW):**

- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved the Supports Waiver five-year renewal on March 6, 2024, with an effective date of July 1, 2024.
  - Assistive Technology with remote features will be an added service in the SW beginning July 1, 2024.

### **Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Settings Rule:**

- Louisiana is currently under a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for the HCBS Settings Rule with CMS, which will continue until December 31, 2024. At that time, only those providers/settings who have met the requirements may continue to provide waiver services.
- Final validation onsite visits for Day Habilitation and Employment providers began February 1, 2024 and will continue until July 31, 2024.
  - If a final validation visit concludes that a provider is not in compliance with the HCBS Settings Rule, OCDD will notify providers in writing and will remove them from the OCDD Freedom of Choice (FOC) list.
  - OCDD will also notify waiver participants who are served by the agency that is not in compliance. These participants may choose a new FOC provider agency that has met the HCBS compliance.
  - These individuals will then be transitioned to the agency chosen from the FOC. This milestone ends October 31, 2024.

### **Waiver Updates**

#### **Summary of any activities within Children’s Choice (CC), Residential Options Waiver (ROW), or New Opportunities Waiver (NOW):**

- OCDD will submit a request to CMS for approval to change the cost of the night rate to match the day rate.
- OCDD’s self-direction workgroup is working on the Self-Direction Handbook for all three of these waivers.
- OCDD is updating the CC manual and ROW manual.

#### **Legislative Session Wrap-up:**

- House Bill 1 (McFarland)
  - Added funding for the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) coordinator position in OCDD
  - Equalized the IFS-night and IFS-day rate (approximately \$18/hour)
  - Added money for private ICFs (\$15 million)
- House Bill 829 (Lyons)/Act 240 of the 2024 Regular Legislative Session
  - Moves the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) from the Governor’s Office to OCDD.
    - Federal law created the SICC to advise and assist the state’s Early Intervention lead agency (EarlySteps).
    - SICC works with EarlySteps to help design and oversee the implementation of family-centered, community-based, comprehensive interagency system for infants and toddlers who are eligible for services.

- This move aligns Louisiana with 52 other states and U.S. territories.
- The SICC coordinator will be a full-time position in OCDD.

**Access Rule:**

- The Access Rule was finalized in May 2024 and will bring sweeping changes to the I/DD delivery system. The rule will be effective July 9, 2024, and states will have to implement the changes over the next several years. The changes in the rule include:
  - Payment adequacy and transparency
  - Critical incidents
  - Timeliness of access
  - Quality measure set
  - FFS grievance process
  - Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC) and Beneficiary Advisory Committee (BAC)
- OCDD will release guidance and host webinars once we have received additional guidance from CMS.

**American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA):**

The following activities have been approved by CMS for spending through Section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan Act:

- *Systemic therapeutic assessment resources and treatment (START) model assessment and pilot*
  - The START team held in-person outreach sessions during April, with a focus on outreach to self-advocates, those in rural areas, and mental health treatment providers.
  - The START team is completing its formal report with recommendations. OCDD will submit the report to groups within Louisiana who participated in the START meetings, and will share the report publicly.
- *Infrastructure Standup for Technology First Initiative*
  - OCDD continues to work with the local governing entities to allow technology demonstrations throughout the state. This will offer participants across the state the chance to go to their local office and see what technology might be available to help them increase independence.
- *Implementation of Value Based Payment (VBP) Model*
  - OCDD hosted focus groups to explore the introduction of a VBP system, and finalized the VBP measures.
  - OCDD is working to operationalize the VBP measures.
- *Community Practitioners Training*

- Due to the significant interest in these events, OCDD has requested and received approval to increase the funding for this activity.
- *Enhanced Services for people with co-occurring I/DD and behavioral health needs*
  - This new service in the waiver will be conducted as a pilot to allow for collection of outcomes and fiscal data to inform future budget requests. The services will be designed to specifically support people with I/DD who also have behavior support needs.
- *University Partnerships and Curriculum Development for Capacity Building in the I/DD Service Delivery System*
  - OCDD will partner with universities who offer social services and nursing degrees to build out a curriculum focusing on the unique needs associated with supporting individuals with I/DD, so that when professionals leave college, they will have background in supporting this population. OCDD will also partner with community colleges to develop a direct support worker curriculum to better prepare the workforce.
- *System Modernization to Support an Electronic Individual Support Plan*
  - This will enable the implementation of the electronic assessment and person-centered plan that has been in development for several years. It will provide a platform accessible to all users within the system and allow for a statistically valid sampling of the assessment tool. OCDD is currently working on procuring a contract for this project.

### **MyPlace/Money Follows the Person**

- The Money Follows the Person (MFP) program helps people with disabilities move from institutions to community homes or apartments. MFP helps many people, from children with complex needs to teenagers and adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities
- OCDD's MFP program has grown through 2022, and CMS will keep funding the program until 2027.
- In 2024, MFP submitted a proposal to get more funding to help participants with things like pantry staples, clothing, and housing.
- In 2024, the National MFP Report to Congress named Louisiana one of the most successful states in the MFP program.
- MFP will start implementing a marketing campaign to spread the word about the My Place program and increase participation and community support across Louisiana.
- A new initiative called the Value-Based Payment program, supported by MFP, has started to improve healthcare and save costs for Medicaid beneficiaries. This plan involves working with providers to deliver high-quality, coordinated care and has been reviewing and supporting person-centered planning across the state.

**Early Steps**

- The U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has issued its determination for OCDD’s EarlySteps as “Meets Requirements” for implementing Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C early intervention services for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022 through 2023 (issued June 2024). The determination is based on the information provided in OCDD EarlySteps State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report, information obtained through monitoring, desk audits, and other public information. The four ratings for the determination criteria are Meets Requirements, Needs Assistance, Needs Intervention, and Needs Substantial Intervention.
- EarlySteps received its approved FFY 2024 Grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Special Education Programs, effective July 1, 2024. A copy of the grant will be posted to EarlySteps website by July 10, 2024.
- HB 829, filed by Representative Rodney Lyons, moved the SICC from the Governor’s Office to OCDD. If you are interested in learning more about the SICC and the various committees, please contact Caroline Nailor Oglesby at [caroline.oglesby@la.gov](mailto:caroline.oglesby@la.gov) or 225-342-8853.
- OSEP’s EarlySteps onsite visit is scheduled for December 2 through December 6, 2024; OCDD is currently preparing for the visit. EarlySteps is receiving Technical Assistance (TA) from two national TA Centers: Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA) and Center for IDEA Fiscal Reporting (CIFR).

**Public Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IIDs)**

**Pinecrest Supports and Services Center**

Current Census	2023 Calendar Year Admissions	2023 Calendar Year Discharges
415	35	15

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

**Community Capacity Building to Serve Individuals with Complex Medical and Behavioral Health Needs**

### **OCDD Resource Center Activities:**

The mission of the OCDD Resource Center is to collaborate with private providers/clinicians to assist with identification of support needs, as well as develop activities/interventions/products that improve their abilities to achieve positive outcomes for persons who experience IDD. The Resource Center services are designed to assist individuals who experience IDD to have greater access to needed medical and behavioral health services so that they are able to remain living, working and involved in their community.

- The OCDD Resource Center clinicians provide consultations to private providers and clinicians to enhance their ability to support and/or provide treatment to individuals who experience IDD. When necessary, the Resource Center clinicians may provide direct services to individuals as a service of last resort. Through the third quarter of FY 23-24 (**January 1, 2024 through March 31, 2024**), OCDD Resource Center clinicians provided consultation and/or direct services that impacted **2,404** individuals who experience IDD. More than **95%** of all individuals receiving consultative or direct services from the Resource Center were able to remain living, working and involved in their community, and more than **98%** report satisfaction with services provided. These consultations and services were across nursing, therapy, and behavioral health clinicians.
- The OCDD Resource Center Nursing staff provide needed outreach and education to all HCBS provider nurse consultants. In the third quarter of FY 23-24 (**January 1, 2024 through March 31, 2024**), the nurses conducted **1,240** outreach and education contacts/activities.
- The OCDD Resource Center dental coordinator and RN manager, along with OCDD's clinical director, also participate in the State Dental Taskforce and are working collaboratively with the taskforce to address the educational components of the efforts to expand access to needed dental services for individuals who experience IDD.

### **OCDD Clinical Training and Education Activities:**

OCDD's Clinical Services division including the Resource Center clinicians provide training and other educational resources to individuals who experience IDD and their families, clinicians across disciplines and IDD providers. The following activities occurred in the third quarter of FY 23-24 (**January 1, 2024 through March 31, 2024**):

- 67 training events with clinicians/providers
- University level training for undergraduate and graduate level students at four Louisiana university programs, which are:
  - Southeastern Louisiana University
  - LSU Health Sciences Center
  - LSU Eunice
  - Louisiana College
- OCDD's nursing staff continue to partner with LSU Medical School for Operation House Call, which is focused on training medical residents to better support individuals who experience IDD.

- OCDD’s Clinical Division is currently working with colleagues in Missouri and the National State Directors of Developmental Disability Services (NASDDD) to build brief training modules and videos for national use in clinician training. The first set of trainings targeting cognitive behavioral therapy are now available via the NASDDD site. The video trainings on dialectical behavior therapy are currently in post-production.
- OCDD’s Clinical Division and other OCDD leadership staff continued quarterly meetings with the Managed Care Organization (MCO) behavioral health medical directors to enhance collaboration, education, and training.
- OCDD’s Clinical Division continued providing formal CE offerings during the last quarter.
- As part of a grant the Arc of Louisiana secured focusing on dual diagnosis, OCDD helped develop a clinician Guide to Accessible BH services for Individuals with IDD as well as a guide for individuals and families to navigate across multiple systems. These guides available on the Arc of Louisiana site at [Guides - The Arc of Louisiana \(hearcla.org\)](https://www.hearcla.org). The collaborative project also includes membership from OBH, community clinicians, and CSoC.
- OCDD’s Clinical Division continues to complete evaluations and consultations as part of the new statewide risk management system.
- OCDD’s Clinical Division assigned clinical liaisons to each of the MCOs to assist in the early identification of critical situations to initiate needed behavioral health, medical, allied health, and DD services and supports.
- OCDD’s Clinical Division is working with the Department of Psychiatry at Ochsner-LSU Health in Shreveport to provide didactic training to both psychiatric residents and doctoral-level psychology interns. Future plans include clinical consultation from Resource Center clinicians, with the adult and child outpatient psychiatric clinics associated with Ochsner-LSU Health in Shreveport, and continued didactic training for Psychiatry Grand Rounds and Psychology Doctoral interns.
- OCDD contacted the Center for START Services to analyze Louisiana’s behavioral health service system for people with developmental disabilities. The full report with recommendations will be available in July 2024.

### **Urgent Triage and Diversion Activities:**

OCDD continues to receive and triage urgent referrals impacting an individual’s ability to remain living in their home/community. The following bullets include trends associated with placement requests to OCDD Central Office for the first quarter of FY 23-24 (January 1, 2024 through March 31, 2024).

- Between **January 1 and March 31, 2024**, there were **38** urgent referrals made to OCDD.
- During this quarter, **41** urgent cases were resolved, with **18** of the **41** cases (**44%**) receiving a consultation from the Resource Center, with the ability to divert **89%** of these individuals from long-term institutionalization. While the Resource Center is available to the Human Services Districts/Authorities to offer clinical guidance to ensure that no

diversion efforts are missed, there are several factors that can impact the ability to engage in an urgent consultation:

- Timeframe once someone is referred for consultation: if the referral is not received until a person's ability to remain in the current living option is exhausted and there are no viable community living alternatives, the ability to divert with clinical consultation would be unlikely)
- Timeframe and status for persons referred from psychiatric hospital settings does not routinely allow for diversion consultation (i.e., clinical activity related to this more often involves a commitment evaluation)
- The individual/family declines to receive consultation
- Lack of an existing clinical provider to receive consultation.

Given these factors, it is important to focus on the diversion percentage instead of the number of persons receiving a crisis consultation, as this is a more accurate indicator of persons for whom there was some ability to receive and potentially benefit from diversion efforts.

- Since 2011, there have been more persons referred from more intensive and institutional-type settings as opposed to the community. This trend continued for the current reporting period, with **58%** of referrals coming from institutional/acute care settings. Further breakdown within these settings revealed that **26%** of these referrals were from psychiatric hospital settings, **13%** were for persons who were incarcerated, **8%** were supported in ICF/DD settings, **8%** were in an acute care setting, **3%** of persons were in a psychiatric residential treatment facility, and **0%** were in a nursing facility at the point of referral.

The Resource Center also continues to work to ensure that individuals with either a history of or current challenges related to non-consensual sexual behavior (NSB) continue to have access to needed supports. A total of **190** individuals are being followed by the Local Oversight Team (LOT). This quarter there were two reported subsequent incidents of NSB, one incident included direct contact (did not result in legal involvement) and one incident did not include direct contact. All individuals remain in waivers and currently reside in their homes.