

# Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council Quarterly Report

**Bureau of Health Services Financing**

*Louisiana Department of Health*

April 2025



## News and Updates

### **Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC)**

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) is forming a Beneficiary Advisory Committee (BAC) which will serve as a subcommittee to the larger Medicaid Advisory Committee. Membership in this group will include Medicaid members, family members of Medicaid members, or caregivers (paid or unpaid) of Medicaid members. BAC members will advise LDH on a range of topics including but not limited to changes to covered services, coordination of care, quality of services, and the eligibility application and renewal processes.

You may visit the BAC website at [www.ldh.la.gov/page/BAC](http://www.ldh.la.gov/page/BAC) to learn more about the BAC. Applications for first term committee members are due April 30, 2025. Members will be selected in May and the first BAC meeting will be scheduled in June or early July. If you have a question regarding the BAC, you may submit those via email to [QualityCommittee@la.gov](mailto:QualityCommittee@la.gov).

### **Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) Workgroup**

LDH and the Healthy Louisiana MCO plans created a workgroup with the goal of streamlining access to Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services for Medicaid-eligible children with developmental disabilities by:

- Optimizing resource allocation to ensure services are prioritized for those with the highest clinical need, in compliance with Louisiana's existing policy framework.
- Establishing clear, equitable medical necessity criteria for Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) to standardize approvals while adhering to federal (EPSDT) and state Medicaid requirements.
- Reducing administrative barriers to care, minimizing delays, and aligning with Louisiana's legal obligations.

The group's kickoff meeting was held on April 4<sup>th</sup> and will meet bi-weekly going forward.

### **Justice-Involved Initiatives**

*Reentry 1115 Demonstration* - On September 27, 2024, LDH submitted an application to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for a Section 1115 demonstration waiver. This demonstration waiver will allow Medicaid coverage of certain services to Medicaid-eligible individuals who are incarcerated up to 90 days prior to their release. LDH is partnering with the Department of Public Safety and Corrections on this demonstration. Those participating in the demonstration will have access to services including but not limited to case management, medication-assisted treatment and counseling for substance use disorders, and a 30-day supply

of all prescription medications. Eligible carceral settings will include all state prison facilities and up to 13 parish jails. Goals of the demonstration include improving care transitions and continuity of coverage, improving health outcomes, and supporting successful reentry of individuals into society. The demonstration application is currently under review with CMS and an implementation date has not been set. For more information on this project, please visit the following web site: [www.ldh.la.gov/1115Reentry](http://www.ldh.la.gov/1115Reentry).

*Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) 5121 Youth Reentry Program* – Medicaid is currently working to implement requirements under Section 5121 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act which require states to offer limited benefits to incarcerated youth and former foster care children thirty days prior to their release. Targeted Case Management and certain screening and diagnostic services will be available during the 30-day pre-release period and the member will continue to receive Targeted Case Management thirty days following release from incarceration to assist with reentry into the community. The tentative start date for this program is July 1, 2025 for state correctional facilities and any local/parish facilities that can demonstrate readiness. The remaining facilities will be on boarded once readiness reviews are completed.

### **Transforming Maternal Health Model (TMaH)**

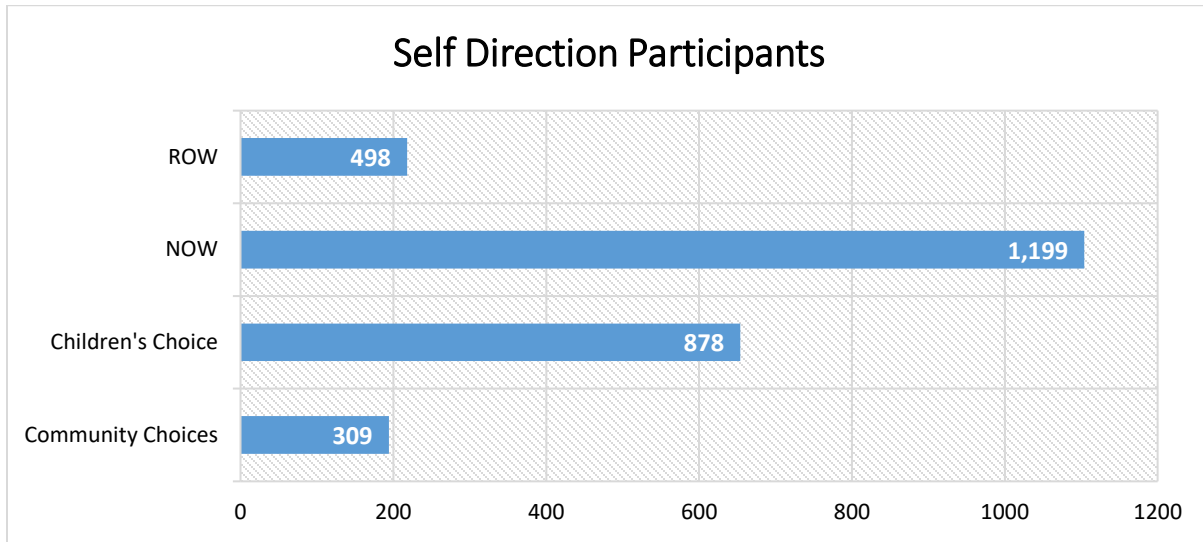
On January 6, 2025, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that Louisiana is one of 15 states selected to participate in the Transforming Maternal Health (TMaH) model. Additional details will be shared in the coming weeks on the TMaH web site at [www.ldh.la.gov/TMaH](http://www.ldh.la.gov/TMaH)

## Programs and Services

### **Self-Direction**

Self-Direction is a service delivery option for eligible waiver participants which allows them, or an authorized representative, to become the employer of the people they choose to hire to provide in-home supports. As the employer, participants or their authorized representatives are responsible for recruiting, training, supervising, and managing the people they choose to hire. This option gives participants the most control over their supports but also requires the most responsibility. Self-Direction is based on the principles of self-determination, which means that you have the ability or right to make your own decisions. As of March 31, 2025, there are 2,884 individuals enrolled in the Self-Direction waiver service option. *Figure 1* (below) provides a breakdown of participants enrolled in self-direction by waiver.

Figure 1. Self-Direction Enrollment by Waiver as of March 2025



Participants in the Residential Options Waiver (ROW), New Opportunities Waiver (NOW), Children’s Choice Waiver, and Community Choices Waiver who are interested in self-direction are offered freedom of choice to select a fiscal employer agent (FEA) - Acumen or Morning Sun. Currently, Acumen provides FEA services to 73% of those self-directing their services and Morning Sun provides FEA services to 27%.

You may visit <https://ldh.la.gov/medicaid/self-direction> for additional information on the self-direction program.

### **Act 421 Children’s Medicaid Option/TEFRA**

The Act 421 Children’s Medicaid Option (Act 421-CMO) or TEFRA program provides Medicaid eligibility to children under the age of 19 who have disabilities and meet institutional level of care requirements, regardless of parental income and resources. To qualify, children must have a disability that is recognized under the definition utilized in the Supplemental Security Income program of the Social Security Administration and must meet basic Medicaid and institutional level-of-care requirements. Additionally, their care at home must cost less than care provided in an institution. More than 3,100 children have been approved for Medicaid coverage through this program who would not otherwise be eligible since its implementation in 2022.

Table 1. Act 421-CMO/TEFRA Application and Enrollment Data as of March 28, 2025

<b>Applications Received</b>	
Total Applications Received	6,587
Applications Received in 2025	582
<b>Applications Approved</b>	
Total Number Approved	3,177
Number Approved in 2025	244
<b>Currently Enrolled</b>	2,432

You may visit <https://ldh.la.gov/act-421-childrens-medicaid-option> for additional information on the Act 421-CMO/TEFRA program. You may also email us at [421-CMO@LA.GOV](mailto:421-CMO@LA.GOV) or call at 1-800-230-0690.

### Money Follows the Person

The Money Follows the Person (MFP) program is a federal grant administered by OAAS, OCDD, and Medicaid to assist in transitioning eligible individuals out of institutional settings so they may receive home and community-based services in their homes. To date, more than 4,400 individuals have transitioned out of qualified institutions (hospitals, nursing facilities and supports and services centers) through the MFP program in Louisiana. In calendar year 2025, 37 participants transitioned out of institutional settings under the MFP program (as of March 2025).

You may visit [MyPlaceLouisiana.com](http://MyPlaceLouisiana.com) for additional information on the MFP/My Place program.

### Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Therapy Services

Behavior analysis is based on a scientific study of how people learn. By doing research, techniques have been developed that increase useful behavior (including communication) and reduce harmful behavior. Applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy uses these techniques. ABA is helpful in treating autism spectrum disorders.

Table 2. ABA Utilization for February 2025

	Managed Care Organizations (MCOs)						
	ACL A	AETNA	Healthy Blue	Humana	LHCC	UHC	TOTALS
Number of CCMs with ASD	1,125	254	701	22	679	87	<b>2,868</b>
Number of PAs Requested for CCMs with ASD	20	19	53	28	321	3	<b>444</b>
Number of PAs approved for CCMs with ASD	20	19	53	28	321	3	<b>444</b>
Number of PAs denied	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Claims Paid for CCMs with ASD	\$230,142	\$154,717	573,151	\$72,166	\$690,365	\$16,148	<b>\$1,736,688</b>

PA = Prior Authorization

CCMs = Chisholm Class Members

ASD = Autism Spectrum Disorder

You may visit <https://ldh.la.gov/page/applied-behavior-analysis> for additional information on ABA services.

### EPSDT Support Coordination

Medicaid eligible children/youth under the age of 21 on the Developmental Disabilities Request for Services Registry or those meeting criteria for children with special needs are eligible to receive EPSDT Support Coordination services. This service assists beneficiaries with gaining access to the full range of needed services including medical, social, educational and other services. This includes all services that beneficiaries under age 21 may be entitled to receive through the EPSDT benefit. The support coordinator reviews all available services and assists with making referrals for the services they may be eligible to receive. These may include services such as medical equipment, occupational, physical or speech therapy, personal care service, home health and EPSDT screening. Support coordinators conduct follow-up visits or phone calls monthly to ensure beneficiaries are receiving all authorized services.

More than 1,000 children/youth received EPSDT Support Coordination services in March 2025.