

DD Council 5 Year Planning – OCDD Information

Current trends you're seeing

- The average cost of waiver per participant, meaning the amount that is spent on a waiver participant each year, is remaining the same.
- OCDD updated employment and day habilitation services to incentivize community engagement and individual employment opportunities; however, there has been no significant change in utilization of these services.
- More people are continuing to utilize self-direction for their services.
- OCDD sponsored self-advocate workgroup have identified issues important to them are promotion of independence and access in the community, technology, and reducing ableism.

Barriers affecting people with disabilities

- There continues to be workforce challenges for supporting people with disabilities. This includes direct support workers, support coordinators, and medical / behavioral professionals with specialty in support I/DD population.
- Access to services for people with co-occurring behavioral health and I/DD.
- Participation in preventative medical and wellness activities.

Key data points we should be aware of

OCDD Waiver Data

	Annual Number of Waiver Participants	Total Annual Waiver Service Payments	Annual Average Cost of Waiver Recipient
SFY 2023	13,161	\$653.6 million	\$49,395
SFY 2024	13,547	\$660.1 million	\$48,718
SFY 2025	14,212	\$691.7 million	\$49,327

Mortality Review Data

- The leading cause of death for waiver participants has notable differences when compared to the general population.
- While heart disease remains the leading cause among waiver participants, congenital conditions and pneumonia rank higher in this population than in the general U.S. or Louisiana populations, where these causes are less prevalent.
- Additionally, septicemia is a leading cause of death among waiver participants, whereas it is not as prominent nationally or in Louisiana. This suggests that waiver participants, who often have more complex medical needs, face different health challenges, particularly related to congenital conditions and infections like pneumonia and septicemia, highlighting the importance of tailored healthcare strategies for this group.

- These distinctions indicate that while chronic diseases like heart disease and cancer remain consistent threats across all populations, waiver participants have unique vulnerabilities that require specific attention to prevent infections and manage congenital conditions effectively.

Suggestions for how the Council can help

- Consider focus on advocacy for issues that help people with I/DD to be more independent in their communities, including physical and sensory access issues and community acceptance.
- Consider emphasis on activities to help people with I/DD better understand employment opportunities and benefits considerations.
- Consider activities that help promote education and access to preventive screenings and behavioral health treatments.