



September 23, 2014

Your Opinion Matters: Behavioral Health Services for People with Developmental Disabilities

The Council is charged with advocating for improved access to behavioral health services in the community for people with developmental disabilities. If you or your family member has a developmental disability, the Council would like to know what your experience has been trying to access behavioral health services.

The feedback we've received thus far includes:

- It is extremely difficult to identify behavioral health specialists who will serve people with a dual diagnosis (developmental disability and mental health diagnosis).
- Children receiving waiver services cannot access behavioral health services through the Coordinated System of Care (CSoC).
- There is a lack of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) providers in some areas of the state.
- There is a lack of qualified providers to perform the ABA evaluation.
- Families are not accessing ABA because the evaluation is not affordable (\$1,000 - \$2,000).

Please let us know if you have experienced any of these issues, or others, and provide information about your personal experience. The information the Council gathers will be used in our advocacy efforts to improve the system of supports and services for people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Please submit your comments to Keokah Sanders at keokah.sanders@la.gov or call 225-342-6804.