

Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD)  
**QUARTERLY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (DD) COUNCIL REPORT**  
 (Submitted for 4th Quarter 2018)

December 12, 2018

**SERVICES**

**Developmental Disability Waiver Activities**

The following figures reflect **waiver activities thus far in state fiscal year 2018-2019 (July 1, 2018 – December 4, 2018)**:

<b>WAIVER</b>	<b>Offers # *</b>	<b>Linkages #</b>	<b>Certifications</b>
<b>NOW</b>	6	29	26
<b>Children’s Choice</b>	376	300	246
<b>Supports</b>	406	216	135
<b>ROW</b>	80**	217**	153**

\* This is the number of unique individuals made an offer or final offer during this time period.

\*\* Includes offers made under the ROW Pilot Project and OAAS to ROW transitions.

The following figures reflect **total waiver numbers as of December 3, 2018**:

	<b>Total # Slots Allocated</b>	<b>Total Participants linked, but not certified</b>	<b>Total # Certifications</b>	<b>Total # Vacant Slots</b>
<b>Mixed I/DD Waivers</b>	13,293	622	12,470	201

**Request for Services Registry (RFSR) as of November 30, 2018:**

- Developmental Disability (DD) RFSR = 13,386
  - Individuals with urgent/emergent unmet needs (SUN score 3/4) = 0 (offers made to all as screened and identified 3 or 4)
  - Individuals with current needs met (SUN score 0/1/2) = 7,152
  - Individuals with no identified unmet needs = 4,755
  - Individuals in process of scheduling / receiving screening = 1,479

**Children’ Choice**

The Children’s Choice Waiver (CC) five-year renewal will expire on June 30, 2019. The Children’s Choice Waiver Rulemaking Justification Notice Draft was submitted to the Medicaid Program Supports and Waiver (MPSW) section on November 19, 2018 for review and Public Notice. The proposed effective date of the Children’s Choice Application, if approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, will be July 1, 2019. As of now, the process is on track for timely submission.

### **Residential Options Waiver (ROW)**

- **ROW/OAAS Transition** - The implementation phase of the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved transition of Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS) Community Choices Waiver (CCW) and Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) participants who have an OCDD Statement of Approval (SOA) to the ROW continues. This transition affects approximately 260 people.
  - One hundred and eighty-four (184) people have completed the transition and are receiving ROW services.
  - Fifty-six (56) participants are currently linked to the ROW and are in the planning/approval process at this time.
  - Approximately 20 additional individuals are expected to start the transition process.
- **ROW Amendment 2019** - A ROW amendment is being drafted to accomplish the following proposed changes to provide greater access to services/supports for ROW participants:
  - Adding Monitored In-Home Care (MIHC) as a new service;
  - Changing Day Habilitation, Pre-Vocational and group employment rate methodologies from a 2.5-hour unit rate to a 15-minute unit rate;
  - Adding language: To prevent institutionalization, participants may be approved to exceed assigned ROW acuity/budget levels-based Inventory of Client and Agency Planning (ICAP) and additional accessed support needs; and
  - Adding clarification: One-time transitional services (TEPA) are to assist individuals in making the transition from an institution to their own home or apartment in the community of their choice.

### **New Opportunities Waiver (NOW)**

Louisiana Department of Health held the public hearing for the NOW Complex Care Notice of Intent on November 29, 2018. Two comments were submitted by one Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) provider agency. No other comments were received on the Notice of Intent. CMS has requested additional information related to the addition of the complex care, and LDH has responded. At this time, CMS has not given approval of the amendment.

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

- The Supports Waiver renewal application will be posted for public comment on the following link: <http://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/page/2526> for the period of December 14, 2018 - January 13, 2019.
- After the comment period is over, the SW renewal application will be submitted to CMS for approval and will have an effective date of July 1, 2019.

### **Pinecrest Supports and Services Center (PSSC) - Transition Status**

The following figures reflect transition activities from January 1, 2018 thru November 30, 2018:

- The census of Pinecrest Supports and Services Center to date is 397.
- In 2017, PSSC admitted 18 individuals and discharged 43. So far this year, 29 people have been admitted and 38 people have been discharged.
- Twenty participants are planning for a transition from the center.
  - Two people are anticipated to transition within the next 30 days.
  - Eight people are anticipated to transition within the next quarter.

### **EarlySteps**

- As of December 1, 2018, the EarlySteps program was providing services to 5,557 children and their families, an increase of 73 children from October 1, 2018.
- The EarlySteps advisory council, the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC), will have its next meeting on January 10, 2019. The State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) improvement area workgroups: Family Assessment, Services Supporting Family Priorities and Team-Based Practice Supports, will meet on the morning of the SICC meeting. There is currently an opening on the SICC for a “public provider of early intervention.” This position is typically filled by a school system representative. Interested applicants can contact Melanie Washington, SICC Executive Director at [melanie.washington@la.gov](mailto:melanie.washington@la.gov).
- State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) Workgroup Activities underway:

The three SSIP workgroups have finalized their pilots of three fidelity measures developed to measure practice fidelity by all early interventionists according to the Division of Early Childhood Recommended Practices in the three improvement areas (Family Assessment, Services Supporting Family Priorities and Team-Based Practice Supports). State staff reviewed the results with our Federal Technical Assistance Consultants at our meeting in November 2018. Final revisions will be made to the tools for implementation. Additionally, a process and timeline to “roll out” the fidelity tools were developed.
- The state received its “results” designation on the SSIP in October 2018. This designation is a risk designation of a state’s need for technical assistance and monitoring as part of Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) results accountability model. Louisiana received “universal” in fiscal, the SSIP, and compliance and intensive in child outcomes. The child outcomes area is one that was identified by staff and stakeholders as an improvement area to better measure child outcomes from entry to early intervention to exit. The changes were fully implemented in March 2017 and are now showing improved results compared to national data. As part of its monitoring requirement with states, OSEP staff will have an onsite visit with staff in Summer 2019.

- Toni Ledet, the coordinator for the *Inclusive Child Care Capacity Building Project*, funded by the DD Council has worked with Department of Education Early Childhood team to propose a coordinated implementation process. They offered support in recruiting potential participants through their local child care networks and any other support that could be identified in the project's implementation. A meeting was also held with the fiscal agent, Center for Development and Learning staff, who will be providing logistical support to the project. The meeting's focus was to review specific needs of the project by their staff including assistance with registration, the on-line module, and face-to-face trainings. It is anticipated that registration for the project will begin in January 2019. Sandee Winchell notified the project coordinator that a new program manager, Courtney Ryland, MHA, was assigned to the project. We will be reaching out to Ms. Ryland to update her on the project's progress in December 2018.

## INITIATIVES

### **Employment**

- OCDD completed on-site technical assistance with several providers and their leadership to discuss the transition process and what compliance really means for them. Providers continue to work to move into compliance.
- OCDD continues to be an active participant of the Employment First Vision Quest team, as well as the State as a Model Employer Team, which are being directed from the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs.

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

Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) has not yet received final approval on the Statewide Transition Plan (STP) that was submitted to CMS regarding the state's plan to come into compliance with the HCBS Settings Rule. Prior to submitting the STP for final approval, LDH will incorporate stakeholder responses into the plan and complete statewide systemic assessment and validation activities. Upon completion, the plan will be posted for public comment prior to being submitting to CMS.

OCDD is on target to complete the following activities in the Fall 2018:

- Complete comprehensive site-specific assessments of all HCBS settings, implement necessary strategies for validating the assessment results, and include the outcomes of these activities within the STP;
- Draft remediation strategies and corresponding timelines which will resolve issues that the site-specific settings assessment process and subsequent validation strategies identified by the end of the HCBS Settings Rule transition period;
- Outline a detailed plan for identifying settings that are presumed to have institutional characteristics, including qualities that isolate HCBS beneficiaries, as well as the proposed process for evaluating these settings and preparing for submission to CMS for review under Heightened Scrutiny;

- Develop a process for communicating with participants that are currently receiving services in settings that the state has determined cannot or will not come into compliance with the HCBS Settings Rule; and
- Establish ongoing monitoring and quality assurance processes that will ensure all settings providing HCBS continue to remain fully compliant with the rule in the future.

### **Request for Services Registry Screening**

- A total of 10,515 Screening of Urgency of Need (SUN) tools have been completed.
- OCDD continues to screen everyone on the RFSR who can be located and who is willing to participate in the screening, including people who newly move onto the Registry and people who have a change in status. Additionally, routine re-screenings for people with previous SUN scores of 2/1/0 are being conducted.

### **Tiered Waiver System**

Since the implementation of the tiered waiver system, a total of 1,405 individuals have accepted an offer and have been linked to Support Coordination and 883 people have been certified into waiver. Currently, all persons that had a SUN score of 3 or 4 on the RFSR have received offers.

### **Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration (My Place Louisiana) as of December 5, 2018 -- Cumulative Data**

All My Place OCDD transitions will end as of December 31, 2018 per CMS Money Follows the Person Demonstration Program rules. My Place assistance will continue for everyone in the program who have transitioned until they complete their first 365 days of waiver services.

- MFP activities provided:
  - Pre- and post-transition assistance requests total 530 with 260 My Place participants receiving assistance (Note: Many participants have made multiple requests.)
  - Direct Service Worker (DSW) Specialization Training for 292 provider staff and family members
- Housing Relocation Assistance Program (HRAP) activities included:
  - 110 referrals for HRAP
  - 32 families or individuals have moved into housing located by the contractors
  - Another 70 people received lists of appropriate housing options for their review
- Total of 466 people have transitioned to the community with My Place supports:
  - New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) 370 individuals
  - Children's Choice (CC) Waiver: 74 children
  - Residential Options Waiver (ROW – My Place): 9 children
  - Residential Options Waiver Pilot (ROW Pilot): 13 individuals

Currently, there is a bill at the federal level to continue funding for the MFP grant for an additional year. If the bill is passed, the OCDD MFP My Place Program will have to follow program guidelines in the new funding directive.

### **Clinical Services: Building Capacity to Support Persons with Complex Needs**

The following information outlines Resource Center activities inclusive of crisis referral and trends associated with placement requests to OCDD Central Office covering the period of January 1, 2018 - December 4, 2018, as well as provides a current update on the Resource Center (RC) and Local Governing Entity (LGE) collaboration on the Non-Consensual Sexual Behavior (NSB) process as of December 4, 2018.

- For the period noted above, there were 68 crisis referrals. Diversion efforts for 17% of these persons are underway, so these cases remain open at the current time and will not be included in the RC consultation or resolution data report. Out of the remaining 64 cases that have reached resolution, 39% of these individuals have required admission to Pinecrest Supports and Services Center (PSSC).
- Forty-seven of sixty-four cases (73%) received a crisis consultation from the Resource Center, with the ability to divert 64% of these individuals from long-term institutionalization. As previously noted, since some cases are still open and diversion efforts are underway, these cases are not included in this analysis. However, the Resource Center remains engaged in the cases to assure that no diversion efforts are missed.
- The last three year's trend relative to persons being referred from other more intensive and institutional-type settings has continued for the period noted above, with 64% of referrals coming from institutional/acute care settings. Further breakdown within these settings reveals that 56% of these referrals were from psychiatric hospital settings, 7% were for persons who were incarcerated, 29% were supported in ICF/DD settings, 5% were in an acute care setting, and 2% of persons were in a psychiatric residential treatment facility at the point of referral.
- Efforts toward assuring that persons with a history and/or current challenges related to non-consensual sexual behavior (NSB) have access to the needed supports remain ongoing. This period's data revealed that 220 persons are receiving follow up by the local oversight team. During this quarter's reporting, there were no individuals who had a subsequent incident of NSB.

OCDD continues to collaborate with the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) and Medicaid relative to triaging and coordinating services for persons with complex support needs. As noted in prior updates, OCDD in partnership with OBH was awarded a Transformation Transfer Initiative (TTI) grant to provide cross-system training and education for clinicians, administrators, and direct-support professionals to develop expertise to support persons with co-occurring intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD) and mental health needs. Technical assistance and consultation sessions were completed for all behavioral health clinic sites for the participating Local Governing Entity (LGE), and this provider received the second incentive and Basic Training and Education Designation. OCDD and OBH are working with this LGE to finalize third incentive targets as well as develop a plan for maintaining in-house capacity. The didactic training series for the selected Psychiatric

Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) provider was also completed, and the intensive technical assistance and consultation phase is now in progress. A notice to solicit additional applications was sent to the LGEs with a response deadline for the end of October 2018. Two LGEs have applied and coordination discussions are underway.

Additionally, the initiative between OCDD and the DD Council to develop training and consultation to build provider capacity to support persons with complex needs continues to progress. The pilot provider and the Monroe provider completed all phases of the initial year and year two extension with significant maintenance of initial outcomes and quality of life outcomes. The Lafayette provider will complete the final phase of the extension by the end of 2018. The Alexandria provider engaged in the project beginning in March 2018; this provider has completed all phases of the initial year of the partnership and due to challenges in outlining more objective measures for change has elected not to engage in an extension year. The end of Calendar Year 2018 will mark the end of the formal DD Council partnership project. Across providers, significant positive outcomes were achieved. Common improvements occurred in the following areas across providers when identified as an area of focus (some differences are expected given differences in individuals supported by each provider):

- Decreased Emergency Room (ER) visits/hospitalizations
- Decreased Critical Incidents
- Decreased falls
- Increased independence
- Increased community involvement
- Increased movement toward competitive employment
- Improved relationships

The project has informed the development of the newly proposed waiver complex care service. Additionally, the project has assisted in identifying areas within the system(s) accessed by individuals with IDD that may need further attention and improvement.