

Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD)

**QUARTERLY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (DD) COUNCIL REPORT  
(Submitted for 4th Quarter 2019)**

December 6, 2019

**SERVICES**

**Developmental Disability Waiver Activities**

The following figures reflect waiver activities thus far in state fiscal year 2019-2020 (July 1, 2019 –November 27, 2019):

WAIVER	Offers # *	Linkages # ***	Certifications
<b>NOW</b>	0	11	13
<b>Children’s Choice</b>	264	260	122
<b>Supports</b>	215	199	58
<b>ROW**</b>	0	8	93

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

\*\* Includes offers and linkages made under OAAS to ROW transitions.

\*\*\* An individual made a CC or Supports offer may request an exception and be linked to the ROW or NOW.

The following figures reflect total waiver numbers as of December 2, 2019:

WAIVER PROGRAM	ALLOCATED	LINKED/ FILLED	CERTIFIED	SLOTS W/O CERTIFIED RECIPIENT	VACANT SLOTS
<b>Most Appropriate Waiver (MAW)</b>	14,094	13,507	12,766	1,328	587

Source: SRI Certifications Report – 12/02/2019

**Request for Services Registry (RFSR) as of October 31, 2019:**

- Developmental Disability (DD) RFSR = 13,484
  - Individuals with urgent/emergent unmet needs (SUN score 3/4) = 0 (offers made to all as screened and identified 3 or 4 – 308 in process)
  - Individuals with current needs met (SUN score 0/1/2) = 7,052
  - Individuals with no identified unmet needs = 4,907 [estimates based on previous information available and information available in Louisiana Service Reporting System (LaSRS)]
  - Individuals in process of scheduling / receiving screening = 1,217

### **Request for Services Registry (RFSR) Screening**

- A total of 12,546 formal screenings, utilizing the Screening of Urgency of Need (SUN) tool, 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.

### **Home and Community-Based Services Waivers for People with I/DD**

There was a rate restoration during the 2019 legislative session that restored the rates to 2008 rates for all services in Home and Community-Based Services Waivers. This was retroactive to January 1, 2019 and will continue into this fiscal year. Adjustments to budget caps in individual waivers were made commensurate with the rate restoration.

### **Children's Choice Waiver**

The amendment to the Children's Choice Waiver application has been submitted to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The purpose of the amendment is to remove the sub-specialties of Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Speech Therapy from the following covered services: Music Therapy, Art Therapy and Therapeutic Horseback Riding. Each of these therapies will act as its own provider type and will be able to enroll without needing a physical therapy, occupational or speech therapy license. The amendment was sent out for public comment beginning on October 30, 2019 and will end on November 29, 2019.

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

The following figures reflect transition activities from January 1, 2019 thru November 29, 2019:

- The census of Pinecrest Supports and Services Center to date is 411.
- In calendar year 2018, PSSC admitted 32 individuals and discharged 39. So far in calendar year 2019, 43 people have been admitted and 31 people have been discharged.
- Fifteen participants are currently planning for a transition from the center.
  - Three people are anticipated to transition within the next 30 days.
  - Three people are anticipated to transition within the next quarter.

### **EarlySteps**

- As of December 1, 2019, the EarlySteps program was providing services to 5,496 children and their families, a decrease of 83 children compared to December 1, 2018.
- The EarlySteps advisory council, the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC), will have its next meeting on January 9, 2020 at 1:00pm. The SICC committees will meet in the morning.

- The Louisiana IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act), Part C Annual Performance Report will be submitted to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) with the United States Department of Education on February 3, 2020. Louisiana reports on thirteen indicators. Performance results available to date indicate that EarlySteps met its targets on six indicators and showed improvement in two indicators. Performance results of all indicators will be available in January 2020.

## INITIATIVES

### Employment

- OCDD hosted a meeting with vocational providers to begin discussing the redesign of vocational services and alignment of those services across the three adult waivers. At this meeting, a smaller work group was formed, and this group will have its first meeting in December 2019 to begin the work of redesigning the services to align with Employment First philosophy and the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Settings Rule.
- OCDD State Office, Local Governing Entity (LGE) Offices, Support Coordination Agencies, and vocational provider agencies are wrapping up an online Supported Employment training through Elsevier Training Program. This training has provided a true understanding of employment and what it means for the individuals supported by OCDD. The training will end in December 2019.
- OCDD had a conference call with the State Employment Leadership Network (SELN) to provide our agency with a preview of the follow-up written report regarding the recommendations for our state. OCDD will begin working with the SELN to establish a plan of action to begin moving forward with recommendations. The SELN will also be providing a webinar to our stakeholders on the report at the beginning of 2020.
- At the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) conference in September 2019, OCDD facilitated a panel discussion session with vocational providers who have made steps toward meeting compliance for the CMS Settings Rule. The session was well received, and requests have been made to follow up on this session with additional panel discussions.
- OCDD and the LGEs continue to work with vocational providers to provide technical assistance to help with moving into compliance with the HCBS Settings Rule by March 17, 2020. OCDD continues to provide various trainings based on topics that are requested by providers, employment roundtable discussions in each area, onsite technical support, and various other technical guidance needed to assist providers with meeting the deadline.
- OCDD continues to be an active participant in the Employment First Team, as well as the State as a Model Employer Team, which are both being led out of the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs.

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

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) posted the LA Statewide Transition Plan (STP) Addendum for public comment from August 9-September 8, 2019; however, OCDD did not receive any comments. The LDH submitted the addendum to the STP to CMS on September 24, 2019, and CMS responded on October 1, 2019. A follow-up phone call occurred on October 15, 2019. Currently, LDH is working to provide the additional information requested by CMS.

### **Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration (My Place Louisiana)**

Previously, My Place transitions were stopped as of December 31, 2018 in accordance with CMS Money Follows the Person Demonstration Program rules. However, the program received an extension at the federal level which allowed states (such as Louisiana) with remaining grant funds to continue all operations including transitioning new participants. The remaining funds for My Place Louisiana will run out at the end of calendar year 2019. Medicaid recently received instructions from CMS advising that Louisiana should submit its budget to continue MFP transition activities through December 2020 and that funding would be provided through three possible sources using: 1) funding remaining under the state's 2016 award; 2) new funding made available under the Medicaid Extenders Act of 2019 for MFP programs continuing MFP transitions; or 3) a combination of both funding from the 2016 award and new Medicaid Extenders Act funding.

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

The following information outlines Resource Center (RC) activities inclusive of crisis referral and trends associated with placement requests to OCDD Central Office for the 2019 calendar year (covering the period of January 1, 2019 – December 2, 2019). Additionally, it provides a current update on the Resource Center and Local Governing Entity (LGE) collaboration on the Non-Consensual Sexual Behavior (NSB) process as of December 2, 2019.

- For the period noted above there were 112 crisis referrals. Diversion efforts for 15% 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 95 cases that have reached resolution, 40 of these individuals have required admission to Pinecrest Supports and Services Center (PSSC).
- Forty-five out of ninety-five cases (47%) received a crisis consultation from the Resource Center, with the ability to divert 71% of these individuals from long-term institutionalization. As 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 59% of referrals coming from institutional/acute care settings. Further breakdown within these settings reveals that 48% of these referrals were from psychiatric hospital settings, 23% were for persons who were incarcerated, 20% were supported in Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID) settings, 7% were in an acute care setting, and 2% of persons were in a nursing 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 225 persons are receiving follow-up by the local oversight team. During this quarter's reporting, there were no subsequent incidents 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. The TTI grant activities are entering the final phases. The following outcomes have been achieved to date:

- The initial participating LGE achieved the Basic Training and Education Designation and increased capacity in accepting and serving youth and adults with IDD and mental health needs. This LGE has also launched an in-house study option for their new clinicians to establish a continued learning base of new staff. This option involves a partnership between the LGE Behavioral Health division in conjunction with the LGE's Developmental Disability office and Resource Center staff.
- The didactic training series for the selected Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) provider was also completed, and collaboration remains active. However, due to limited numbers related to new admissions who meet grant requirements, OBH and OCDD are working on ways to continue the partnership with the Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) post grant sunset.
- An additional LGE completed the didactic training phase, and the intensive technical assistance and consultation phase is still in progress.
- The didactic training series was also completed in three areas of the state for private clinicians interested in pursuing an Individual Clinician Basic Training Designation, and all participating clinicians received the designation with competency checks completed.

Additional grant activities for the remainder of the year include:

- Completion of technical assistance and consultation with the second LGE.
- Start of a third LGE in the didactic training phase in early December 2019.
- Evaluation of the self-study option and its use in other areas of the system beyond the formal grant activities.