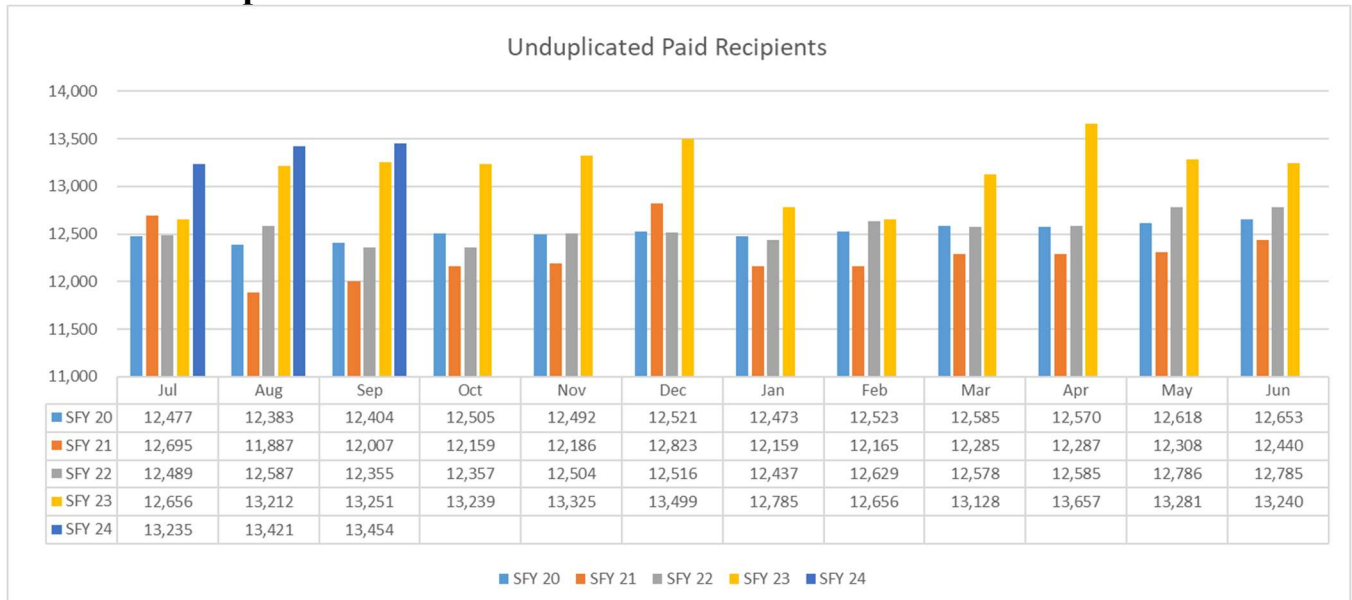


DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL QUARTERLY REPORT FOR THE 3rd QUARTER OF 2023 October 5, 2023

SERVICES DATA

Waiver Participant Data



*Unduplicated Paid Recipients – monthly total of people who received a paid waiver service (by date of payment).

Annual number of waiver individuals receiving paid services

SFY20 – 13,268

SFY21 – 13,154

SFY22 – 13,323

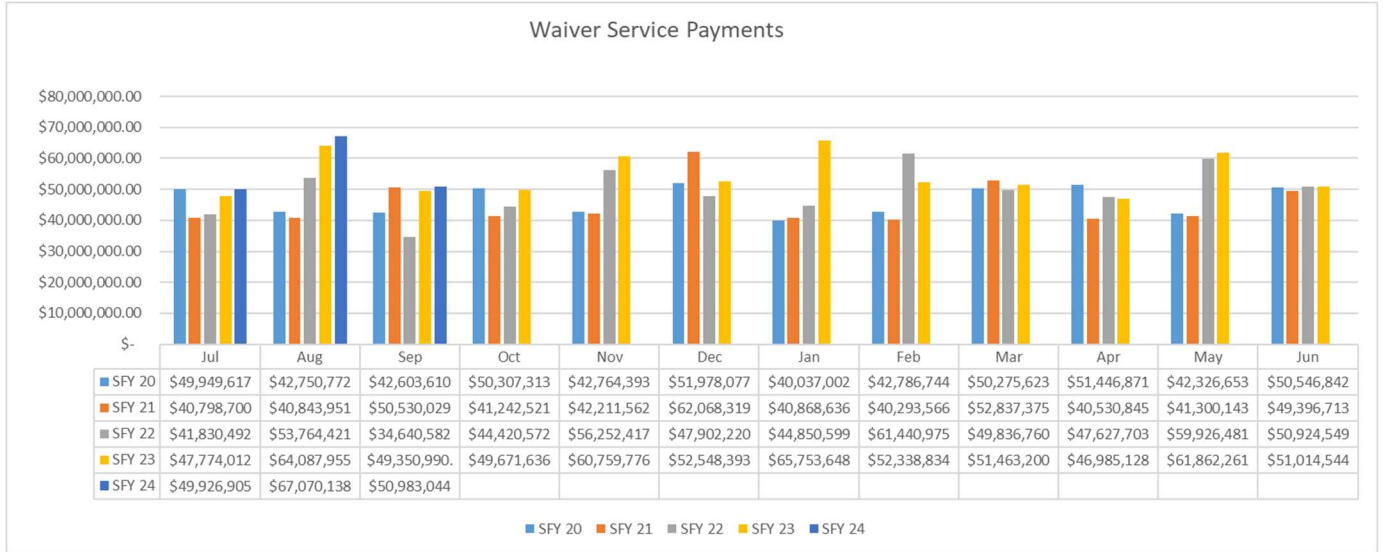
SFY23 – 13,827

SFY24 – 13,325

Waiver Individuals Receiving Paid Services by Race

Region	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Asian Indian	Asian Unknown	Black or African American	Chinese	Japanese	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Other Asian	Other Pacific Islander	Other Unspecified	Vietnamese	White	Grand Total
1	1		4	641						11		204	862
2	1	19		986	1		1	1		9	1	691	1712
3	2	4	3	438					1			689	1140
4	8		5	807						3		1235	2062
5	1		4	184								463	657
6	5		1	299						8		430	749
7	4		2	551						3		433	1000
8	2		3	598						19		483	1113
9	4		2	374			1			14		1147	1551
10	3		10	489						16		632	1160
Grand Total	31	23	30	5,367	1	0	2	1	1	60	1	6,407	12,006

***Note: The breakdown of race in this table reflects those categories for which there is an identified member. There are some duplicates, as some people self-report to be in more than one category.**



***Waiver Services Payments – the amount paid for all waiver services for each month (by date of payment).**

Annual Totals for Waiver Services Payments

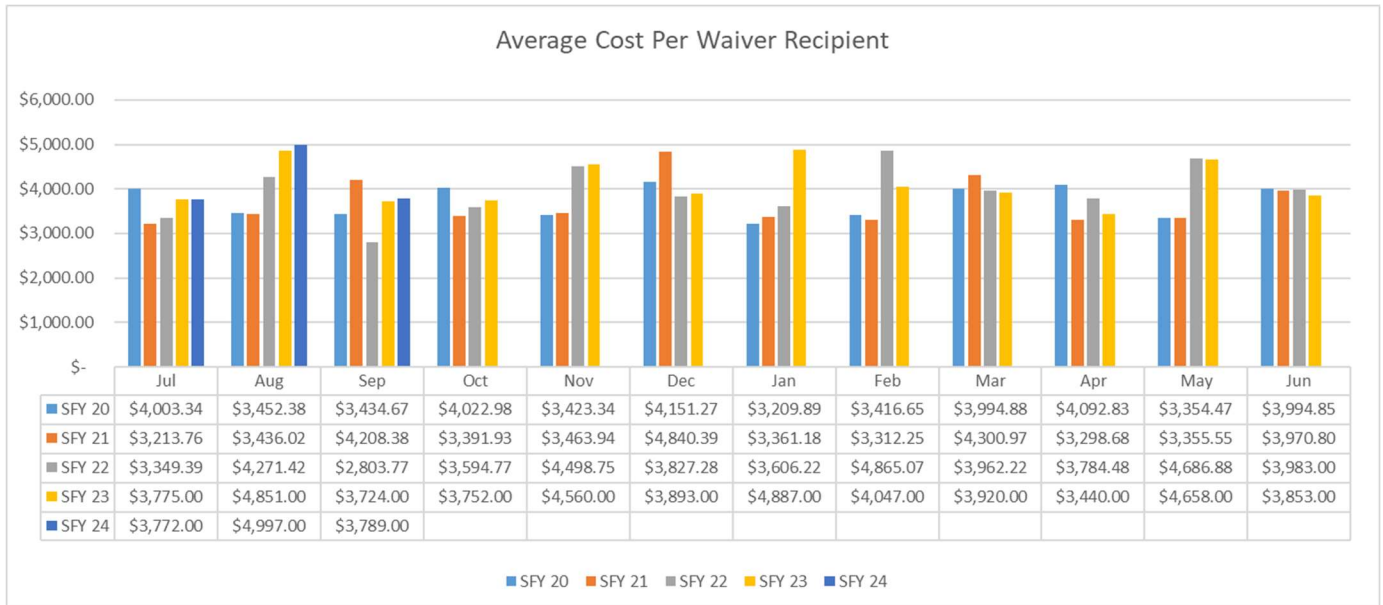
SFY20 - \$557,773,523

SFY21 - \$542,922,366

SFY22 - \$593,417,775

SFY23 - \$653,610,377

SFY24 - \$167,980,087



Annual Average Cost of Waiver per Recipient

SFY20 - \$44,552

SFY21 - \$44,154

SFY22 - \$47,182

SFY23 - \$50,288

SFY24 - \$50,237

OCDD Participant Data

Screening for Urgency of Need (SUN)

The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) uses the Screening for Urgency of Need (SUN) to identify if an individual with a Statement of Approval has unmet needs for support that can be met through Home and Community Based Waiver Services (HCBS) and to connect individuals and families with other services for which they may qualify. If an individual has urgent or emergent unmet needs, they receive an offer for a Home and Community Based Waiver.

An initial SUN screening is completed with all individuals who are eligible for OCDD services and who request waiver services unless the individual/guardian does not respond or declines to participate. In addition, follow-up SUN screenings/re-screenings are completed for two reasons:

- Systematic follow-up for individuals with previous SUN scores of 0, 1, or 2; and
- The individual has requested a re-screen due to a change in status.

In the past, OCDD asked for a certain number of *waiver slots* per year. Now that we have shifted to the tiered (most appropriate) waiver process, OCDD offers waiver services based on the identified budget. At this time, OCDD continues to be able to offer waiver slots to all individuals who are identified as having urgent or emergent unmet needs. OCDD closely monitors the budgeted dollar amount and expenses to ensure that we are able to continue to offer waiver services to these individuals.

Current Quarter Data, July 1, 2023, to September 18, 2023

Total administrations completed 539

Number of administrations by SUN score	Total
Score of 4, unmet needs at the Emergent level	116
Score of 3, unmet needs at the Urgent level	166
Score of 2, unmet needs at the Critical level	81
Score of 1, unmet needs at the Planning level	65
Score of 0, no identified unmet needs	111
Total	539

The table below indicates the totals for initial screenings and re-screenings.

Reason for Screening	Total
Initials	392
Re-Screenings	147
Total	539

Waiver offers are made to all individuals with a SUN score of 3 or 4, so no individual with current unmet needs is on the Registry. As of August, 31, 2023, the current total number of individuals listed in the DD Request for Services Registry (Registry) is 13,704¹.

Early Steps Participant Data

Early Steps Child Count as of September 1, 2023: 6,415

Region	Birth to 1	Birth to 2	Birth to 3	Total
Unassigned Region	1	1	3	5
1	36	132	308	476
2	126	326	622	1074
3	82	224	428	734
4	134	298	496	928
5	60	117	184	361
6	32	71	112	215
7	80	187	343	610
8	74	118	156	348
9	139	363	563	1065
10	65	160	374	599
Total				6,415

¹ The total number of individuals listed in the Registry will fluctuate due to new additions, closures, and post-closure re-opens. Reasons for closures include no response to SUN contact attempts; no response to validation contact attempts; loss of eligibility; confirmed out-of-state for reasons not related to military, treatment unavailable in Louisiana, or disaster displacement; no response to out-of-state letter; death; individual request; no response to waiver offer after second attempt; declining a waiver offer; and accepting a waiver offer. Records closed due to no response will maintain their waiver request date in the event of a post-closure re-open.

OCDD QUARTERLY ACTIVITIES

Waiver-Related Activities

Employment

- OCDD continues to participate with the SELN in monthly group webinars, monthly one-on-one technical assistance, and an annual meeting, all with a focus on improving employment and community outcomes. OCDD worked with the SELN during the redesign of services to ensure an emphasis was placed on individual employment and community engagement was achieved. These two focuses align with the HCBS Settings Rule.
- OCDD has worked with a stakeholder group over the last four years to design services with a focus on individual employment and community engagement.
- OCDD will be funding the vocational redesign including rate increases.
- Rate increases and alignment of rates across the NOW, ROW and Supports Waiver (SW) are effective October 1 for the following services:
 - Community Life Engagement
 - Community Career Planning
 - Community Life Engagement Development (NOW)
- Effective January 1, 2024, the following services are being added across the NOW, ROW and SW:
 - Community Life Engagement Development (ROW/SW)
 - Community Life Engagement 1:1 (ROW/NOW)
 - Community Career Planning 1:1 (ROW/NOW)
- Effective January 1, 2024, the following Individual Supported Employment service array was established and rates were given that are reflective of the importance of individual employment. The following service array will be the same across the NOW, ROW and SW:
 - Work Based Assessment
 - Job Development/Placement
 - Initial Job Supports
 - Extended Job Supports
 - Follow Along
- During the next few months, OCDD will provide extensive training to providers and support coordinators.

- *Supports Waiver*

- CMS approved the SW amendment with an effective date of 8/1/2023.
- The SW rule is currently moving through the rulemaking process for the following updates and additions that were approved in the amendment:
 - Addition of Specialized Medical Equipment/Incontinence Supplies as a service in the amount of \$2,500 per Plan Of Care year;
 - Unbundled transportation from the following services: Day Habilitation, Prevocational and Supported Employment. Transportation as a separate billable service will be allowed on the days one of the following is provided: onsite day habilitation, community life engagement, onsite prevocational, community career planning and individual and group supported employment services.
 - Addition of Community Life Engagement Development as a service;
 - Removal of the 5 hour daily cap for onsite day habilitation, community life engagement, community career planning, onsite prevocational services and individual supported employment services on the same day;
 - Removal of caps for individual supported employment; and
 - Revised billing for Group Employment from a daily rate to 15 minute increments, allowing for choice and multiple services to be delivered on the same day.
- The SW 5-year renewal process has begun. The renewal will be submitted to CMS in January of 2024, with an effective date of 7/1/2024.

- *Home and Community-Based Services Settings Rule*

- Louisiana is currently under a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) with CMS which is in effect through 12/31/2024.
- OCDD via the Local Governing Entities (LGEs) accepted CAPs from providers who believed they needed extra time and guidance to meet compliance through 7/31/2023.
- OCDD and the LGEs are completing onsite visits and providing technical assistance and guidance to those providers who submitted a CAP. Providers are submitting monthly updates to their CAPs.
- Technical assistance, guidance and trainings for providers will continue through 1/31/2024.
- Final Validation onsite visits for providers who are under a CAP will begin 2/1/2023 and continue through 7/31/2024.

Waiver Updates

- *Summary of any activities within Children's Choice (CC), Residential Options Waiver (ROW), or New Opportunities Waiver (NOW)*

We are preparing for the end of the Public Health Emergency in waiver services. The PHE ended on 5/11/2023, but CMS gave us 6 months to come into compliance with previous rules and regulations. We made some changes to previous rules based on public input and have been providing trainings to providers, support coordinators and self-direction employers.

OCDD will be holding roadshows in all 9 regions in October. We will talk about post-PHE changes, as well as new services and initiatives like technology in the waivers, and value based payments. We will announce dates and locations once they are finalized.

This quarter support coordinators and providers responded to wildfires statewide and helped participants evacuate when necessary. OCDD asks all participants to pack a "go bag" to prepare for emergencies and no notice events like wildfires.

- *2023 Regular Legislative Session Updates*

- There were several resolutions in the legislative session that were related to people with disabilities and actions for OCDD to study. One item was a resolution that will end in a report to the Legislature around Support Coordinator Agency compensation. We also have a group working on a report looking at tools we use to set rates for people with I/DD who live in Intermediate Care Facilities. We will submit both reports to the Legislature in February.

- *American Rescue Plan of 2021 (ARPA)*

The following activities have been approved by CMS, and we must spend the funds on these activities by 2025:

- *Systemic therapeutic assessment resources and treatment (START) model assessment and pilot*
 - The START team continues to meet with advocates and providers and conducts review of data.
- *Infrastructure Standup for Technology First Initiative*
 - Phase 1 of remote supports has been implemented. We currently have 1 provider and 16 people using this service. We continue to work to educate and expand understanding of this service. We will be adding remote supports to the Supports Waiver in upcoming months.

- *Implementation of Value Based Payment (VBP) Model*
 - OCDD has completed a review of other state VBP models, and there are many different activities that can be incentivized. A primary focus will be on person-centered planning. This is an activity that will be fully developed this year.
- *Community Practitioners Training*
 - Due to the significant interest in these events, OCDD has requested and received approval to increase the funding for this activity.
- *Direct support workforce and support coordination recruitment and retention bonus*
 - Bonus payments have been initiated.
- *Enhanced Services for people with co-occurring I/DD and behavioral health needs*
 - This will be a new service in the waiver and will be conducted as a pilot to allow for collection of outcomes and fiscal data to inform future budget requests. The services will be designed to specifically support people with I/DD who also have behavior support needs.
- *University Partnerships and Curriculum Development for Capacity Building in the I/DD Service Delivery System*
 - OCDD will partner with universities who offer social services and nursing degrees to build out a curriculum focusing on the unique needs associated with supporting individuals with I/DD, so that when professionals leave college, they will have background in supporting this population. OCDD will also partner with community colleges to develop a direct support worker curriculum to better prepare the workforce.
- *System Modernization to Support an Electronic Individual Support Plan*
 - This will allow implementation of the electronic assessment and person centered plan that has been in development for several years. This will allow for a platform to allow access to all users within the system and to do a statistically valid sample of the assessment tool.

MyPlace/Money Follows the Person

- The Money Follows the Person (MFP) demonstration is an addition to services that helps people with disabilities move or transition from an institution into a home and community-based setting, such as a home or apartment.
- The OCDD My Place or MFP program has continued to grow through 2023. CMS approved the program to receive continued funding through 2027.

- MFP participants range from children born with complex needs to teens and adults who have been diagnosed with intellectual/developmental disabilities and have been living in a nursing facility, specialty hospital, or an intermediate care facility for 60 consecutive days.
- As of today in 2023, MFP assisted in 40 successful participant transitions into their community across Louisiana.
- In 2023, MFP provided training on enrolling a participant in the demonstration, an overview of potential participants, and the benefits of My Place participation to providers and other stakeholders. These trainings are available upon request.
- In 2023, MFP will continue utilizing additional CMS funding to launch a statewide marketing push, including video and radio advertisements.
- In August of 2023, MFP secured additional funding to assist providers in Louisiana in receiving a Supported Employment 40-hour training through the MFP Capacity Building Grant.
- In August of 2023, MFP also received additional supplemental funding to further assist MFP participants with food security and additional short-term housing assistance.

Early Steps

- The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs has conditionally approved Louisiana's application for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2023 funds under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA Part C). EarlySteps is required to make some changes to existing policies and procedures to ensure compliance with IDEA Part C requirements. Changes must occur no later than July 30, 2024.
- The State Interagency Coordination Council (SICC) Meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2023 (1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.). Alishia Vallien has resigned as the SICC Executive Director. If you need more information about the SICC, please contact Caroline Nailor-Oglesby at caroline.oglesby@la.gov or 225-342-8853.

Public Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IIDs)

Pinecrest Supports and Services Center

Current Census	2023 Calendar Year Admissions	2023 Calendar Year Discharges
408	21	24

Access to Behavioral and Medical Intervention in the Community

Community Capacity Building to Serve Individuals with Complex Medical and Behavioral Health Needs

OCDD Resource Center Activities

The mission of the OCDD Resource Center is to collaborate with private providers/clinicians to assist with identification of support needs, as well as develop activities/interventions/products that improve their abilities to achieve positive outcomes for persons who experience IDD. The Resource Center services are designed to assist individuals who experience IDD to have greater access to needed medical and behavioral health services so that they are able to remain living, working and involved in their community.

- The OCDD Resource Center clinicians provide consultations to private providers and clinicians to enhance their ability to support and/or provide treatment to individuals who experience IDD. When necessary, the Resource Center clinicians may provide direct services to individuals as a service of last resort. Through the fourth quarter of FY 22-23 (**April 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023**), OCDD Resource Center clinicians provided consultation and/or direct services that impacted **1,780** individuals who experience IDD. Over **95%** of all individuals receiving consultative or direct services from the Resource Center were able to remain living, working and involved in their community, and over **98%** report satisfaction with services provided. These consultations and services were across nursing, therapy, and behavioral health clinicians.
- The OCDD Resource Center nursing staff provide needed outreach and education to all HCBS provider nurse consultants. In the fourth quarter of FY 22-23 (**April 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023**), the nurses conducted **1,080** outreach and education contacts/activities.
- The OCDD Resource Center Dental Coordinator and RN Manager, along with OCDD's Clinical Director also participate in the State Dental Taskforce and are working collaboratively with the taskforce to address the educational components of the efforts to expand access to needed dental services for individuals who experience IDD.

OCDD Clinical Training and Education Activities

OCDD's Clinical Services division including the Resource Center clinicians provide training and other educational resources to individuals who experience I/DD and their families, clinicians across disciplines and I/DD providers. The following activities occurred in fourth quarter of FY 22-23 (**April 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023**):

- **131** training events with clinicians/providers
- University level training for undergraduate and graduate level students at 4 Louisiana University programs, which are:
 - Southeastern Louisiana University

- LSU Health Sciences Center
 - LSU Eunice
 - Louisiana College
- OCDD's nursing staff continue to partner with LSU Medical School for Operation House Call which is focused on training medical residents to better support individuals who experience I/DD.
 - OCDD's Clinical Division is currently working with colleagues in Missouri and the National State Directors of Developmental Disability Services to build brief training modules and videos for use nationally in clinician training.
 - OCDD's Clinical Division along with other OCDD leadership staff continued quarterly meetings with the MCO behavioral health medical directors to enhance collaboration, education and training.
 - OCDD's Clinical Division continued providing formal CE offerings during the last quarter.
 - OCDD worked collaboratively as part of a grant the Arc of Louisiana secured focusing on dual diagnosis. Initial project focused on developing a Clinician Guide to Accessible BH services for Individuals with I/DD. A second guide for individuals and families to navigate across multiple systems has also been developed. These guides have been completed and are available on the Arc of Louisiana site at [Guides - The Arc of Louisiana \(thearca.org\)](https://thearca.org/guides). The collaborative project also includes membership from OBH, community clinicians, and CSoC.
 - OCDD's Clinical Division continues to complete evaluations and consultations as part of the new statewide risk management system. OCDD's Clinical Division assigned clinical liaisons to each of the MCOs to assist in the early identification of critical situations to initiate needed behavioral health, medical, allied health, and DD services and supports.
 - OCDD's Clinical Division is working with the Department of Psychiatry at Ochsner-LSU Health in Shreveport and provided didactic training to both psychiatric residents and doctoral-level psychology interns. Future plans include clinical consultation from Resource Center clinicians with the adult and child outpatient psychiatric clinics associated with Ochsner-LSU Health in Shreveport and continued didactic training for Psychiatry Grand Rounds and Psychology Doctoral Interns.

Urgent Triage and Diversion Activities

OCDD continues to receive and triage urgent referrals impacting an individual's ability to remain living in their home/community. Trends associated with placement requests to OCDD Central Office for the **2023** calendar year (covering the period of **April 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023**).

- Between **April 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023** there were **41** urgent referrals made to OCDD.
- During this quarter, **41** urgent cases were resolved, with **24** of the **41** cases (59%) receiving a consultation from the Resource Center, with the ability to divert **98%** of these individuals from long-term institutionalization. While the Resource Center is available to the Human Services Districts/Authorities to offer clinical guidance to assure that no diversion efforts

are missed, there are several factors which can impact the ability to engage in an urgent consultation:

- Timeframe once person is referred for consultation: if the referral is not received until a person's ability to remain in the current living option is exhausted, and there are no viable community living alternatives, the ability to divert with clinical consultation would be unlikely);
- Timeframe and status for persons referred from psychiatric hospital settings does not routinely allow for diversion consultation (i.e., clinical activity related to this more often involves a commitment evaluation);
- The individual/family declines to receive consultation; and/or
- Lack of an existing clinical provider to receive consultation.

Given these factors, it is important to focus on the diversion percentage instead of the number of persons receiving a crisis consultation, as this is a more accurate indicator of persons for whom there was some ability to receive and potentially benefit from diversion efforts.

- Since 2011, there have been more persons referred from more intensive and institutional-type settings as opposed to the community. This trend continued for the current reporting period, with **34%** of referrals coming from institutional/acute care settings. Further breakdown within these settings revealed that **25%** of these referrals were from psychiatric hospital settings, **0%** were for persons who were incarcerated, **3%** were supported in ICF/DD settings, **3%** were in an acute care setting, **3%** of persons were in a psychiatric residential treatment facility, and **0%** were in a nursing facility at the point of referral.

The Resource Center also continues to work to ensure that individuals with a history and/or current challenges related to non-consensual sexual behavior (NSB) continue to have access to needed supports. 210 individuals are being followed by the Local Oversight Team (LOT). This quarter there were three reported subsequent incidents of NSB, two incidents included direct contact (did not result in legal involvement) and one incident did not include direct contact. All individuals remain in Waiver and currently reside in their homes.