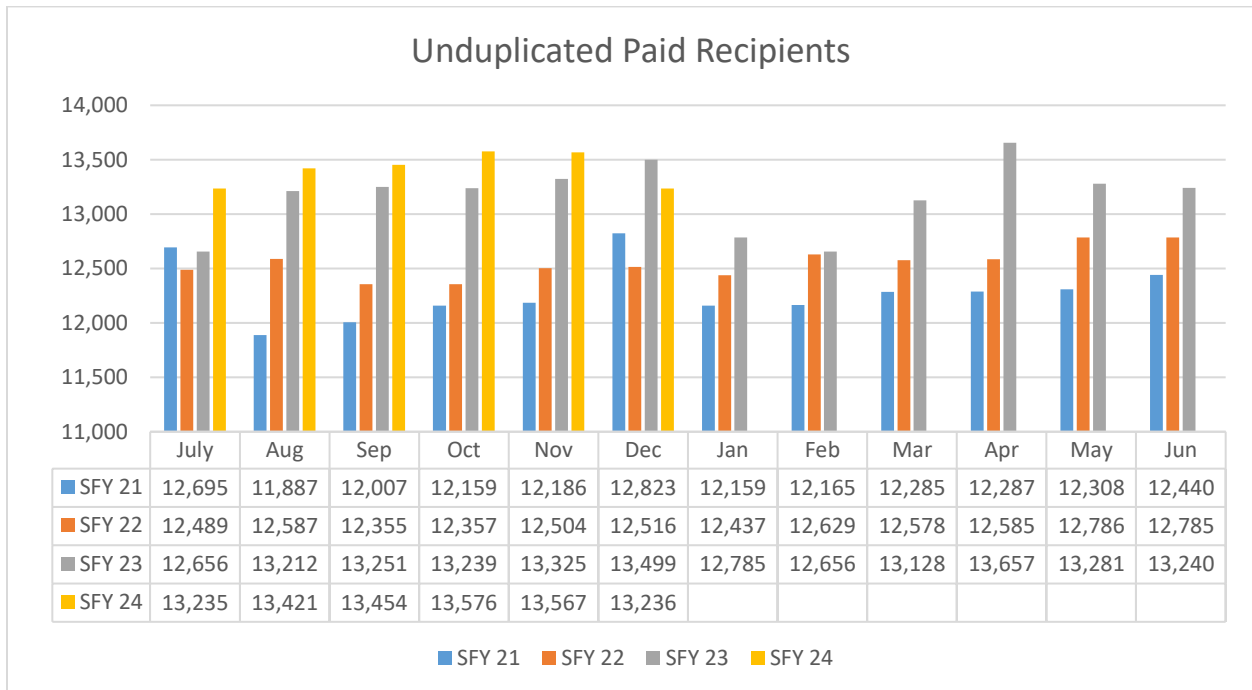


**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL QUARTERLY  
REPORT FOR THE 4th QUARTER OF 2023  
January 5, 2024**

**SERVICES DATA**

**Waiver Participant Data**



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

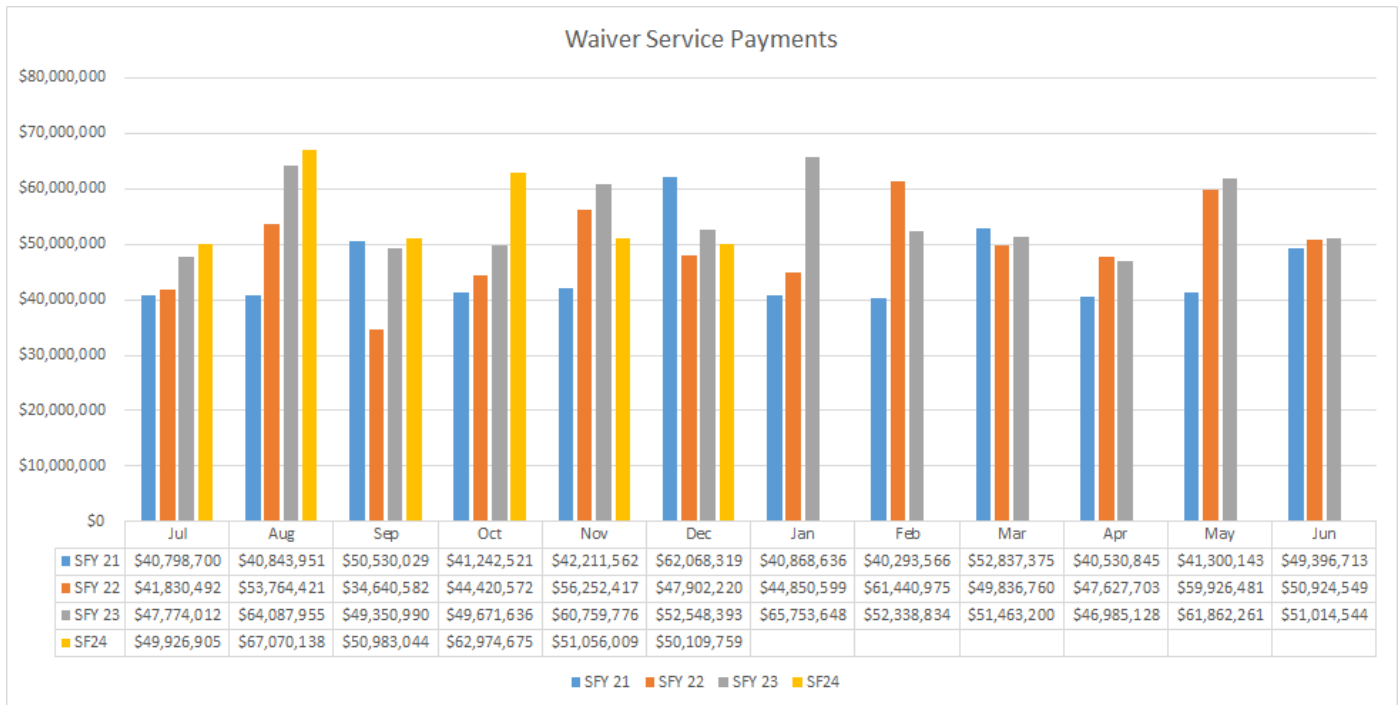
**Annual number of waiver individuals receiving paid services**

**SFY21 – 13,154**  
**SFY22 – 13,323**  
**SFY23 – 13,827**  
**SFY24 – 14,420**

**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	2		4	637						3		203	849
2	2	19		997	1		1	1		2		687	1,710
3	20	4		440								687	1,151
4	9		5	812						1		1,210	2,037
5	1		4	192								454	651
6	4		1	284								435	724
7	5		2	541								428	976
8	2		3	591								475	1,071
9	4		2	375			2					1,160	1,543
10	3		10	491						3		631	1,138
<b>Grand Total</b>	52	23	27	5360	1		3	1		9		6,370	11,850

**\*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).**

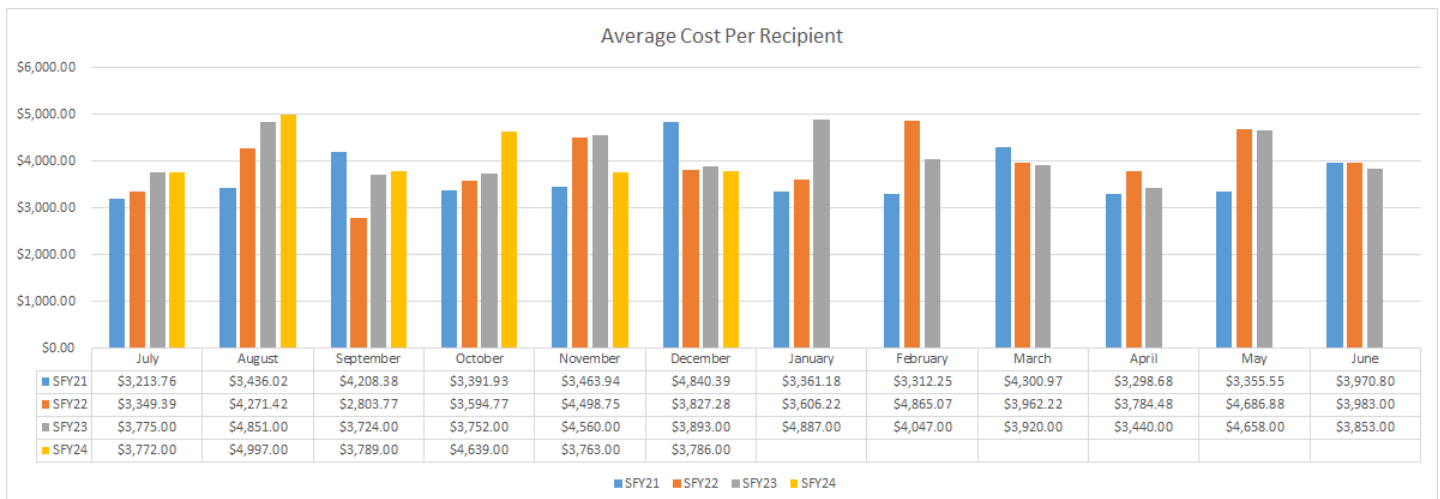
**Annual Totals for Waiver Services Payments**

**SFY21 - \$542,922,366**

**SFY22 - \$593,417,775**

**SFY23 - \$653,610,377**

**SFY24 - \$332,095,591**



**Annual Average Cost of Waiver per Recipient**

**SFY21 - \$44,154**

**SFY22 - \$47,182**

**SFY23 - \$50,288**

**SFY24 - \$49,482**

## 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, October 1, 2023, to December 13, 2023

Total administrations completed 795

Number of administrations by SUN score	Total
Score of 4, unmet needs at the Emergent level	71
Score of 3, unmet needs at the Urgent level	255
Score of 2, unmet needs at the Critical level	126
Score of 1, unmet needs at the Planning level	113
Score of 0, no identified unmet needs	230
<b>Total</b>	<b>795</b>

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

<b>Reason for Screening</b>	<b>Total</b>
Initials	552
Re-Screenings	243
<b>Total</b>	<b>795</b>

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 November 30, 2023, the current total number of individuals listed in the DD Request for Services Registry (Registry) is 13,753<sup>1</sup>.

### **EarlySteps Participant Data**

Child Count as of December 1, 2022: 5,809

Child Count as of December 1, 2023: 6,567

Referrals for the 4th Quarter: 3,223

- Referrals October 2023: 1,330
- Referrals November 2023: 1,161
- Referrals December 2023: 732

Eligible Children with Active IFSP (December 1, 2023)

<b>Region</b>	<b>Age 0</b>	<b>Age 1</b>	<b>Age 2</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	43	122	293	458
2	106	352	646	1,104
3	93	229	440	762
4	142	292	503	937
5	61	120	171	352
6	36	70	117	223
7	78	180	355	613
8	73	133	174	380
9	137	355	622	1,114
10	73	171	380	624
<b>Total</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>3701</b>	<b>6,567</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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. SELN works to provide the necessary guidance for implementation of new policies and procedures around community and employment services.
- OCDD has worked for the past several years to redesign the vocational program and to align it across the adult waivers. Stakeholders were involved in the redesign. The redesign has taken place in stages, and the final implementation will take place in January.
- Effective October 1, rate increase across the NOW, ROW and SW for community life engagement service, 1:2-4 that is provided in the community.
- Effective January 1, 2024, the following services are being added across the NOW, ROW and SW with rate increases.
  - 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 services array will be implemented 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 (SW)*
  - OCDD submitted the SW 5-year renewal to CMS on 12/15/2023, with an effective date of 7/1/2024.
  - The SW rule will be finalized in January, 2024. The following changes will be implemented in the SW:

- 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
  - Revised the 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
- *Home and Community-Based Services Settings Rule*
  - Louisiana is currently under a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) with CMS, and it is in effect through 12/31/2024.
  - 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.
  - OCDD continues to provide relevant trainings related to compliance with the HCBS Settings Rule. Technical assistance, guidance, and trainings will continue to providers through January 31, 2024.
  - Final validation onsite visits for providers who are under a CAP will begin 2/1/2024 and continue through 7/31/2024.
  - If providers are determined to not meet the compliance as established by the HCBS Settings Rule, individuals being served will be offered a freedom of choice and will be transitioned to a setting that meets the compliance regulations.

## **Waiver Updates**

- *Summary of any activities within Children’s Choice (CC), Residential Options Waiver (ROW), or New Opportunities Waiver (NOW)*
  - This fall, OCDD held roadshows statewide which included in-person meetings in each of LDH’s 9 regions and 2 virtual options. OCDD talked about post-PHE changes, as well as new services and initiatives like technology in the waivers,

and value based payments. Several hundred people attended the events including parents and family members, service providers, support coordinators, and representatives from local governing entities.

- OCDD developed and implemented process documents related to family as paid caregiver and self-direction employer attestation forms and videos.
  - OCDD added incontinence products as a service in the Residential Options Waiver and New Opportunities Waiver this fall.
  - The Children’s Choice Waiver 5 year renewal was submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) on 12/15/2023, with an effective date of 7/1/2024.
- *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. OCDD also has a group working on a report looking at tools we use to set rates for people with IDD 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 has completed its outreach activities, and the formal report with recommendations will be submitted by March 2024.
    - *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 is hosting focus groups to explore the introduction of a VBP system on January 17.
    - *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*
  - In the fall of 2023, OCDD released bonus payments to providers totaling approximately \$75.7 million. The bonus payments benefited 17,790 direct support professionals and support coordinators.
- *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 transition services which helps people with disabilities move or transition from a qualified institution into a home and community-based setting, such as a home or apartment.
- 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 December 2023, MFP assisted in 52 successful participant transitions into their home or apartment across Louisiana.

- As of December 2023, MFP has collaborated with LSU Health Science Center to provide a 40-hour core supported employment training to support coordinating agencies across Louisiana through the MFP capacity building grant. Participants will now be able to provide individual supported employment services to individuals who need assistance obtaining and maintaining employment in the community.
- In December 2023, the MFP program accepted letters of interest from support coordination agencies to participate in a \$1.2 million value based payment initiative. The funding will incentivize agencies in the following efforts:
  - Ensuring a specific percentage of SCs and supervisors are certified in person-centered (PC) tools and PC plan development;
  - Encouraging agencies to have 80% of their supervisors certified in PC tools and PC plan review, promoting consistent quality of services; and
  - Proposing a plan for building in-house capacity, including PC training modules as part of SC orientation and supervisor PC tools and plan development review training.

### **Early Steps**

- Five EarlySteps staff attended the annual Division of Early Childhood (DEC) Conference in Minnesota. DEC is the largest international professional organization dedicated to supporting families and young children who have or are at risk for developmental delays and disabilities.
- EarlySteps purchased 55 hearing screening instruments (ERO scans). Intake coordinators will conduct hearing screenings for children referred to EarlySteps. EarlySteps is collaborating with early hearing detection intervention (EHDI) on training for intake coordinators and data sharing of hearing screening results. The ERO scans were purchased with EarlySteps ARPA funds.
- Family support coordinators can now bill a flat rate for support coordination for children who have Medicaid.
- EarlySteps state staff are having statewide quarterly meetings with system point of entry agencies, family support coordinator agencies, and evaluators. Statewide quarterly meetings will also be scheduled with providers who are providing direct services.

**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
404	24	26

**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 I/DD. The Resource Center services are designed to assist individuals who experience I/DD 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 I/DD. When necessary, the Resource Center clinicians may provide direct services to individuals as a service of last resort. Through the first quarter of FY 23-24 (**July 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023**), OCDD Resource Center clinicians provided consultation and/or direct services that impacted **2,103** individuals who experience I/DD. 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 first quarter of FY 23-24 (**July 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023**), the nurses conducted **1,353** 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 I/DD.

*OCDD Clinical Training and Education Activities*

OCDD's Clinical Services Division including the Resource Center clinicians provides 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 first quarter of FY 23-24 (**July 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023**):

- **111** 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. The first set of trainings are currently in post-production.
- 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. The initial project focused on developing a clinician guide to accessible behavioral health 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 \(theacla.org\)](https://theacla.org). 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 first quarter of FY 23-24 (**July 1, 2023-September 30, 2023**).

- Between **July 1, 2023-September 30, 2023** there were **36** urgent referrals made to OCDD.
- During this quarter, **41** urgent cases were resolved, with **23** of the **41** cases (**56%**) receiving a consultation from the Resource Center, with the ability to divert **100%** of these individuals from long-term institutionalization. While the Resource Center is available to the Human Services Districts/Authorities to offer clinical guidance to ensure 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 **54%** of referrals coming from institutional/acute care settings. Further breakdown within these settings revealed that **39%** of these referrals were from psychiatric hospital settings, **0%** were for persons who were incarcerated, **5%** were supported in ICF/DD settings, **5%** were in an acute care setting, **5%** 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. The local oversight team (LOT) is following 201 individuals. This quarter there were two reported subsequent incidents of NSB, one incident 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.