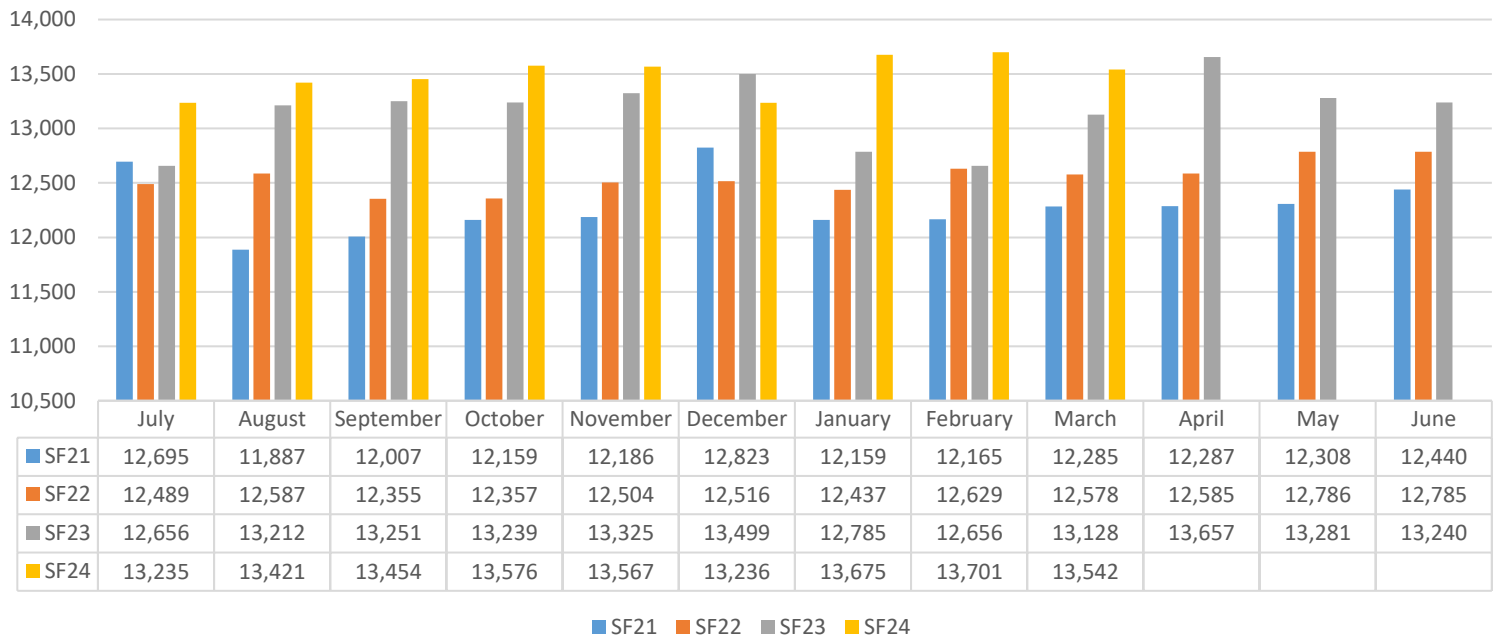


**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL QUARTERLY REPORT
FOR THE 1st QUARTER OF 2024
April 5, 2024**

SERVICES DATA

Waiver Participant Data

Unduplicated Paid Recipients



***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

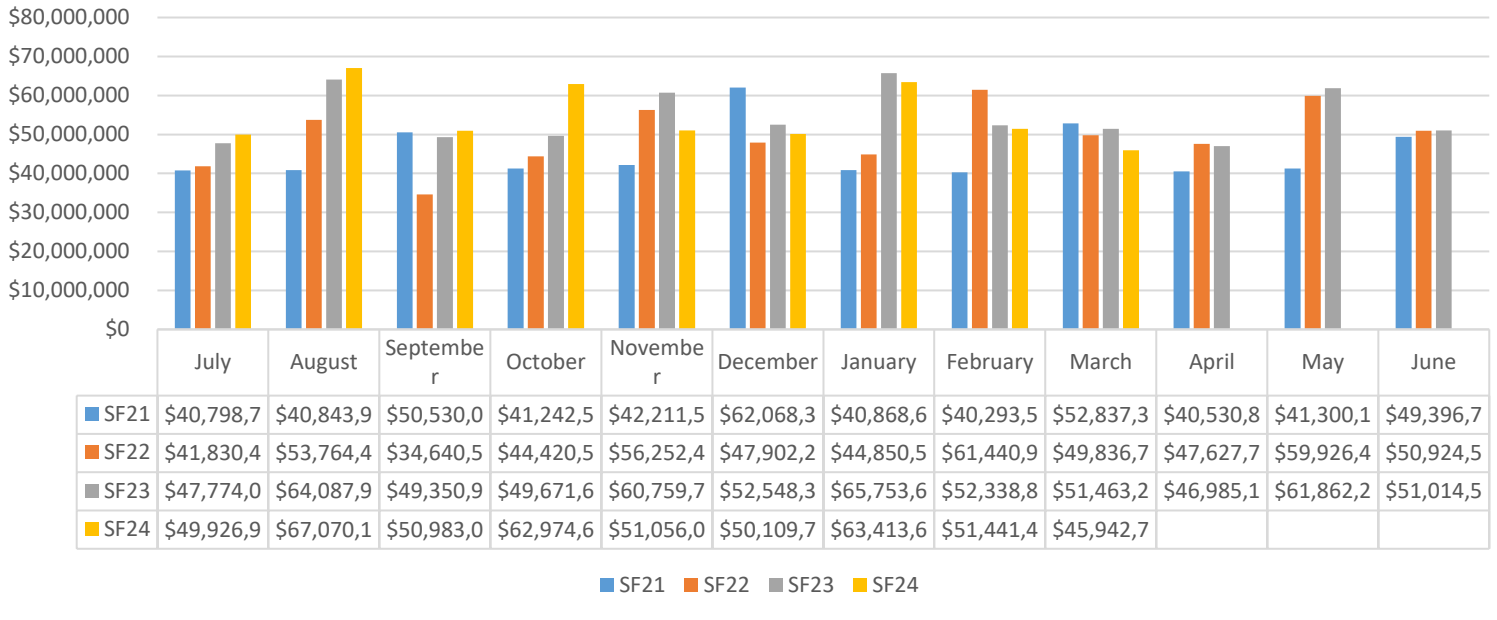
SFY24 – 14,288

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	642						3		201	852
2	2	19		995	1		1			2		699	1,719
3	18		4	437								682	1,141
4	9		5	816						1		1,231	2,062
5	1		3	191								459	654
6	5		1	272						1		421	700
7	4		2	539								411	956
8	2		3	573								470	1,048
9	4		2	388			2			1		1,167	1,564
10	4		10	486						3		638	1,141
Grand Total	51	19	30	5,339	1		3	1		11		6,379	11,831

***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 Service Payments

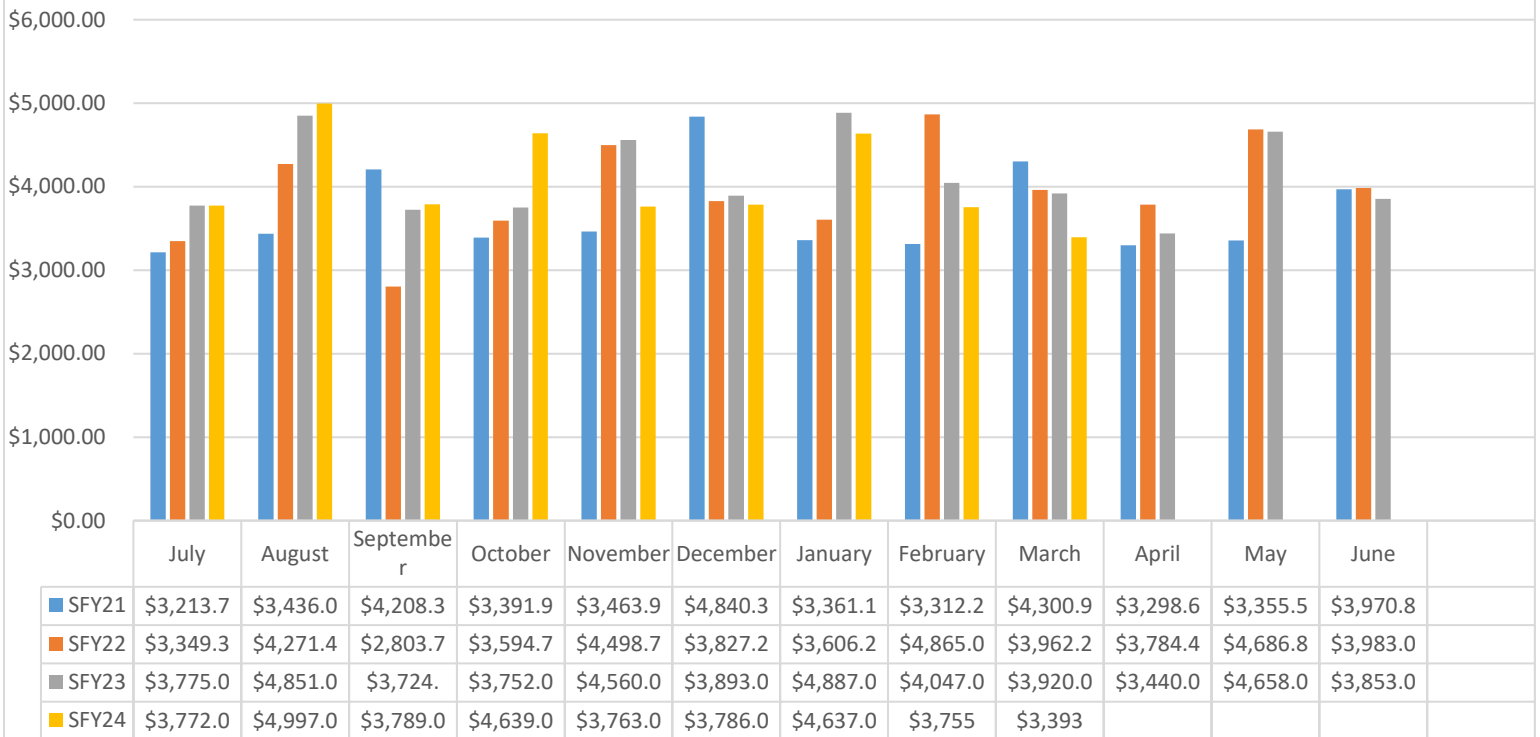


***Waiver Services Payments – the amount paid for all waiver services for each month (by date of payment).**

Annual Totals for Waiver Services Payments

SFY21 - \$542,922,366
SFY22 - \$593,417,775
SFY23 - \$653,610,377
SFY24 - \$492,894,643

Average Cost Per Recipient



Annual Average Cost of Waiver per Recipient

SFY21 - \$44,154

SFY22 - \$47,182

SFY23 - \$50,288

SFY24 - \$48,698

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, January 1, 2024, to March 26, 2024

Total administrations completed 1,018

Number of administrations by SUN score	Total
Score of 4, unmet needs at the Emergent level	149
Score of 3, unmet needs at the Urgent level	206
Score of 2, unmet needs at the Critical level	158
Score of 1, unmet needs at the Planning level	102
Score of 0, no identified unmet needs	403
Total	1,018

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

Reason for Screening	Total
Initials	608
Re-Screenings	410
Total	1,018

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 February 29, 2024, the current total number of individuals listed in the DD Request for Services Registry (Registry) is 13,791¹.

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.

EarlySteps Participant Data

Child Count as of March 1, 2023: 5898

Child Count as of March 1, 2024: 6,378

Referrals for the 1st Quarter:

- Referrals January 2024: 1512
- Referrals February 2024: 1236
- Referrals March 2024: 993

Eligible Children with Active IFSP (March 1, 2024)

Region	Age 0	Age 1	Age 2	Total
1	50	125	288	463
2	104	355	632	1091
3	75	224	433	732
4	111	280	513	904
5	42	110	170	322
6	32	68	106	206
7	72	180	352	604
8	63	118	180	361
9	128	323	620	1071
10	69	177	378	624
Total	746	1960	3672	6378

OCDD QUARTERLY ACTIVITIES

Waiver-Related Activities

Employment

- OCDD has worked for the past several years with a provider workgroup to redesign the ‘vocational’/Day and Employment program, to align services across the adult waivers and to provide services that are in alignment with the Home- and Community Based Services (HCBS) Settings Rule. The redesign has taken place in stages and the final implementation will take place in April, 2024.
- Effective April 1, 2024, the following services are being added to the New Opportunities Waiver (NOW), Residential Options Waiver (ROW), and Supports Waiver (SW).
 - Community Life Engagement Development (NOW/ROW/SW)
 - Community Life Engagement 1:1(ROW/NOW)
 - Community Career Planning 1:1 (ROW/NOW)
- Effective April 1, 2024, the following services received rate increase.
 - Community Career Planning 1:2-4 (NOW/ROW/SW)
 - Onsite Prevocational 1:5-8, rates were equalized across waivers
- Effective April 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 Support
 - Extended Job Support
 - Follow Along Support
- Trainings for these services will continue over the next few months to providers and support coordinators to ensure the services are implemented and used as intended. The individual supported employment (SE) service was broken down into these five services to better support the path to employment.
- OCDD received funding from the Money Follows the Person (MFP) program to provide the 40 hour core SE training to providers, which will give them the training needed to provide the individual SE services for both the OCDD waivers and Louisiana Rehabilitative Services (LRS). This training is part of the initiative to increase capacity statewide for supported employment providers.
- OCDD continues to participate with the State Employment Leadership Network (SELN) in monthly group webinars, monthly one-on-one technical assistance (TA) 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.

- *Supports Waiver (SW)*
 - The Supports Waiver rule was finalized in January, 2024. The following changes are effective in the Supports Waiver.
 - Addition of Incontinence Supplies as a service in the amount of \$2500 per Plan of Care year for those individuals 21 and over.
 - Transportation as a separate billable service, on the days one of the following services is provided: onsite day habilitation, community life engagement, onsite prevocational, community career planning and individual and group supported employment.
 - 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 and increased the units to 6720.
 - Removal of caps for individual supported employment services.
 - Group Employment is now billed in 15 minute increments, allowing for choice and multiple services to be delivered on the same day. 6720 units are available.
 - The Supports Waiver 5-year renewal was approved by CMS on 3/6/2024, with an effective date of 7/1/2024.
 - Effective 7/1/2024, Assistive Technology with remote features will be an added service in the SW.
- *Home and Community-Based Services Settings Rule*
 - Louisiana is currently under a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) with CMS and it's in effect through 12/31/2024.
 - Providers' corrective action period ended on 1/31/2024.
 - Final Validation onsite visits for providers began 2/1/2024 and will continue through 7/31/2024.
 - If providers are determined to not meet the compliance as established by the HCBS Settings Rule, providers will be notified in writing, the individuals being served will be offered a freedom of choice and transitioned to a setting that meets the compliance regulations.
 - Transition will continue for individuals through 10/31/2024.

Waiver Updates

- *Summary of any activities within Children’s Choice (CC), Residential Options Waiver (ROW), or New Opportunities Waiver (NOW)*
 - 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. Once the CMS renewal is approved we will begin the rulemaking process to bring the rule and application into alignment.
 - OCDD has started a self-direction workgroup made up of families who use self-direction, individuals who use self-direction, support coordinators and local governing entities. The self-direction group is open for anyone to listen to, however only the core working group members are able to participate.
 - OCDD will also be starting quarterly self-direction meetings to allow all self-direction participants to discuss ongoing self-direction topics with waiver leadership.
- *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)* The following activities have been approved by CMS for spending through Section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan Act:
 - *Systemic therapeutic assessment resources and treatment (START) model assessment and pilot*
 - The START team held in-person outreach sessions during the month of April, with a focus on outreach to self-advocates, those in rural areas, and mental health treatment providers.
 - The formal report with recommendations will be submitted after meeting with groups within Louisiana, and it will be shared publicly.
 - *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.
 - OCDD has been in contact with the local governing entities to discuss placing smart home technology throughout the state. This would allow participants across the state to go to their local office and see what technology might be available to help them increase independence.
 - *Implementation of Value Based Payment (VBP) Model*
 - OCDD hosted focus groups to explore the introduction of a VBP system.
 - The focus groups will define what “value” is for our community partners, and metrics will be established.

- *Community Practitioners Training*
 - Due to the significant interest in these events, OCDD has requested and received approval to increase the funding for this activity.
- *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. OCDD is working on the procurement of a contract for this work.

MyPlace/Money Follows the Person

- The Money Follows the Person (MFP) demonstration helps individuals with disabilities move from institutional settings to community-based living arrangements, such as homes or apartments.
- The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) My Place or Money Follows the Person (MFP) program has experienced significant growth through 2022. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has approved continued funding for the program until 2027.
- MFP participants include a wide range of individuals, from children born with complex needs to teenagers and adults diagnosed with intellectual/developmental disabilities. Eligible participants are those living in nursing facilities, specialty hospitals, or intermediate care facilities for at least 60 consecutive days.

- In 2024, MFP will conduct training sessions on the My Place program, covering the enrollment process for participants, an overview of potential participants, and the benefits of participating in My Place. These training sessions are available upon request.
- In 2024, MFP submitted a proposal to secure additional funding to enhance the transition support for participants, including provisions for pantry staples, clothing, and housing accommodations.
- In 2024, the National MFP Report to Congress recognized Louisiana as one of the most successful states in implementing the Money Follows the Person demonstration.
- In 2024, MFP will launch its marketing campaign to raise awareness about the My Place Demonstration, aiming to increase participation and community support across Louisiana.

Early Steps

- A draft of the Louisiana Part C FFY 2024 Grant Application and the General Education Provision Act (GEPA) has been posted for a 60-day public participation period. The information can be accessed at <https://ldh.la.gov/assets/docs/OCDD/EarlySteps/LouisianaPartCGrantApplication032024.pdf>. Please contact the EarlySteps Program Manager Caroline Oglesby at caroline.oglesby@la.gov for any questions.
- In the 2024 Regular Legislative Session Representative Rodney Lyons filed HB 829, which would move the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) from the Governor’s Office to OCDD. The SICC has several functions under the current law, all of which would remain the same to meet the IDEA requirements. The council must perform a range of functions including (but not limited to):
 - reviewing the programs available for people with disabilities, identifying gaps, and assisting in preventing the duplication of programs;
 - monitoring the provision of services to people with developmental disabilities;
 - developing a council plan with goals and objectives for the council and implementation of that plan;
 - to collaborate with agencies like the Louisiana Protection and Advocacy System, and the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service;
 - reviewing and reporting on the programs, policies, and 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
408	12	7

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 2nd quarter of FY 23-24 (**October 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023**), OCDD Resource Center Clinicians provided consultation and/or direct services that impacted **2211** 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 2nd quarter of FY 23-24 (**October 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023**), the nurses conducted **1283** 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 IDD and their families, clinicians across disciplines and IDD providers. The following activities occurred in the 2nd quarter of FY 23-24 (**October 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023**):

- 92 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 IDD.
- OCDD’s Clinical division is currently working with colleagues in Missouri and the National State Directors of Developmental Disability Services (NASDDDS) to build brief training modules and videos for use nationally in clinician training. The first set of trainings targeting cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) are now available via the NASDDD site. The video trainings on dialectical behavior therapy (DBT) are currently in post-production.
- OCDD’s Clinical division along with other OCDD leadership staff continued quarterly meetings with the managed care organization (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 behavioral health (BH) services for individuals with IDD. 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://www.arc.org/guides). The collaborative project also includes membership from OBH, community clinicians, and Coordinated System of Care (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 (**October 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023**).

- Between **October 1, 2023** and **December 31, 2023** there were **33** urgent referrals made to OCDD.
- During this quarter, **34** urgent cases were resolved, with **13** of the **34** cases (**38%**) receiving a consultation from the Resource Center, with the ability to divert **85%** 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 **42%** of referrals coming from institutional/acute care settings. Further breakdown within these settings revealed that **18%** of these referrals were from psychiatric hospital settings, **6%** were for persons who were incarcerated, **9%** were supported in ICF/DD settings, **3%** were in an acute care setting, **0%** of persons were in a psychiatric residential treatment facility, and **6%** 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. **194** individuals are being followed by the Local Oversight Team (LOT). 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.