

# Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council Quarterly Report

**Bureau of Health Services Financing**

*Louisiana Department of Health*

January 2025



## News and Updates

### **Justice-Involved Initiatives**

*Reentry 1115 Demonstration* - On September 27, 2024, LDH submitted an application to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for a Section 1115 demonstration waiver. This demonstration waiver will allow Medicaid coverage of certain services to Medicaid-eligible individuals who are incarcerated up to 90 days prior to their release. LDH is partnering with the Department of Public Safety and Corrections on this demonstration. Those participating in the demonstration will have access to services including but not limited to case management, medication-assisted treatment and counseling for substance use disorders, and a 30-day supply of all prescription medications. Eligible carceral settings will include all state prison facilities and up to 13 parish jails. Goals of the demonstration include improving care transitions and continuity of coverage, improving health outcomes, and supporting successful reentry of individuals into society. For more information on this project, please visit the following web site: [www.ldh.la.gov/1115Reentry](http://www.ldh.la.gov/1115Reentry).

*Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) 5121 Youth Reentry Program* – Medicaid is currently working to implement requirements under Section 5121 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act which require states to offer limited benefits to incarcerated youth and former foster care children thirty days prior to their release. Targeted Case Management and certain screening and diagnostic services will be available during the 30-day pre-release period and the member will continue to receive Targeted Case Management thirty days following release from incarceration to assist with reentry into the community.

### **Medicaid Annual Report**

The Medicaid Annual Report for state fiscal year 2023 was published and may be accessed at the following web address:

[www.ldh.la.gov/assets/Medicaid/AnnualReports/MedicaidAnnualReport2023.pdf](http://www.ldh.la.gov/assets/Medicaid/AnnualReports/MedicaidAnnualReport2023.pdf). The Medicaid Annual Report highlights some of the agency's accomplishments over the year and presents enrollment and expenditure data across different Medicaid programs.

### **Healthy Louisiana Open Enrollment**

Open Enrollment for Louisiana Medicaid members began October 15 and ended on December 2, 2024. During that time, members had the option of choosing a health and dental plan. Members who did not take any action remained with their same health and dental plan. Those plan changes went into effect on January 1, 2025.

Open Enrollment is the only time Medicaid members can change health or dental plans without a qualifying reason, outside of their initial enrollment period. Members with questions can call

1-855-229-6848 (TTY: 1-855-526-3346), Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The call is free.

### **LDH, Medicaid Web Site Revisions**

The Louisiana Department of Health website, including all Medicaid web pages, is currently undergoing a comprehensive redesign. The new version launch has been postponed until March 2025.

The new structure will prioritize visitor's needs, organizing information based on the programs and topics someone is looking for, rather than by specific office or agency responsible for those areas. The overall design will also be more visually appealing, with intuitive design and graphic tools that makes it easier to find the information you need.

During this development period, Medicaid took the opportunity to streamline the website. This included removing outdated and irrelevant pages; updating stagnant content; consolidating duplicate pages; and making information easier to find. We continue to test the structure and flow of the sites and update content until the launch in November. During that transition, should you encounter any issues - broken links, missing or inaccurate content, please reach out to our team at [healthy@la.gov](mailto:healthy@la.gov) to let us know.

### **Transforming Maternal Health Model (TMaH)**

On January 6, 2025, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that Louisiana is one of 15 states selected to participate in the Transforming Maternal Health (TMaH) model. Additional details will be shared in the coming weeks on the TMaH web site at [www.ldh.la.gov/TMaH](http://www.ldh.la.gov/TMaH)

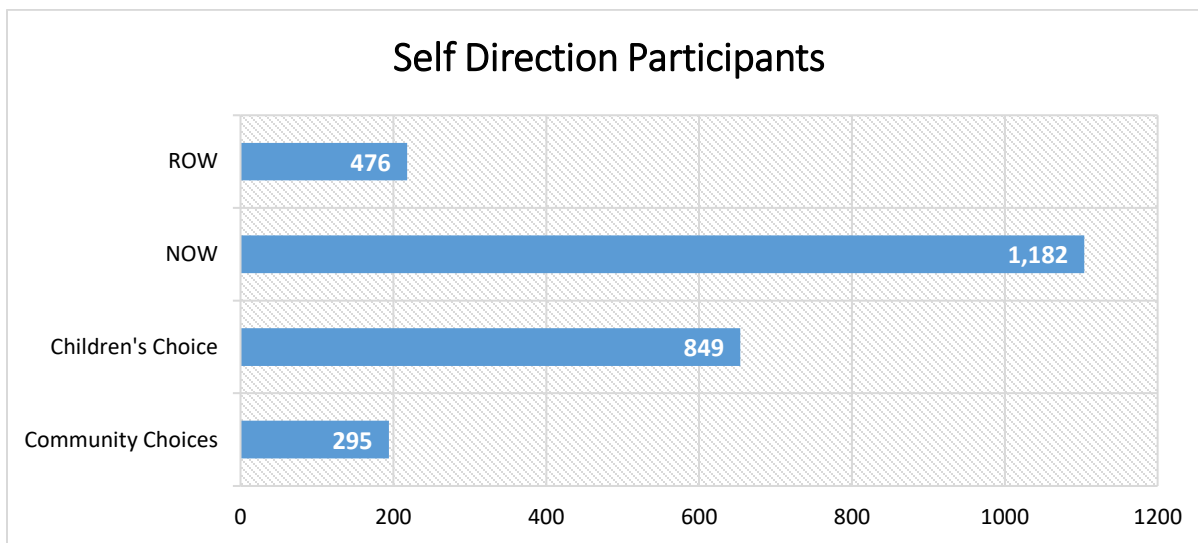
## Programs and Services

### **Self-Direction**

Self-Direction is a service delivery option for eligible waiver participants which allows them, or an authorized representative, to become the employer of the people they choose to hire to provide in-home supports. As the employer, participants or their authorized representatives are responsible for recruiting, training, supervising, and managing the people they choose to hire. This option gives participants the most control over their supports but also requires the most responsibility. Self-Direction is based on the principles of self-determination, which means that you have the ability or right to make your own decisions. As of December 31, 2024, there were

2,802 individuals enrolled in the Self-Direction waiver service option. *Figure 1* (below) provides a breakdown of participants enrolled in self-direction by waiver.

*Figure 1. Self-Direction Enrollment by Waiver as of December 2024*



Participants in the Residential Options Waiver (ROW), New Opportunities Waiver (NOW), Children’s Choice Waiver, and Community Choices Waiver who are interested in self-direction are offered freedom of choice to select a fiscal employer agent (FEA) - Acumen or Morning Sun. Currently, Acumen provides FEA services to 74% of those self-directing their services and Morning Sun provides FEA services to 26%.

You may visit <https://ldh.la.gov/subhome/67> for additional information on the self-direction program.

### **Act 421 Children’s Medicaid Option/TEFRA**

The Act 421 Children’s Medicaid Option (Act 421-CMO) or TEFRA program provides Medicaid eligibility to children under the age of 19 who have disabilities and meet institutional level of care requirements, regardless of parental income and resources. To qualify, children must have a disability that is recognized under the definition utilized in the Supplemental Security Income program of the Social Security Administration and must meet basic Medicaid and institutional level-of-care requirements. Additionally, their care at home must cost less than care provided in an institution. More than 2,900 children have been approved for Medicaid coverage through this program who would not otherwise be eligible since its implementation in 2022.

Table 1. Act 421-CMO/TEFRA Application and Enrollment Data as of January 2, 2025

<b>Applications Received</b>	
Total Applications Received	6,210
Applications Received in 2024	2,085
<b>Applications Approved</b>	
Total Number Approved	2,933
Number Approved in 2024	1,181
<b>Currently Enrolled</b>	2,301

You may visit <http://www.ldh.la.gov/Act421> for additional information on the Act 421-CMO/TEFRA program. You may also email us at [421-CMO@LA.GOV](mailto:421-CMO@LA.GOV) or call at 1-800-230-0690.

### **Money Follows the Person**

The Money Follows the Person (MFP) program is a federal grant administered by OAAS, OCDD, and Medicaid to assist in transitioning eligible individuals out of institutional settings so they may receive home and community-based services in their homes. As of December 1, 2024, more than 4,300 individuals have transitioned out of qualified institutions (hospitals, nursing facilities and supports and services centers) through the MFP program in Louisiana. In calendar year 2024, 245 participants transitioned out of institutional settings under the MFP program.

You may visit [MyPlaceLouisiana.com](http://MyPlaceLouisiana.com) for additional information on the MFP/My Place program.

### **Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Therapy Services**

Behavior analysis is based on a scientific study of how people learn. By doing research, techniques have been developed that increase useful behavior (including communication) and reduce harmful behavior. Applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy uses these techniques. ABA is helpful in treating autism spectrum disorders.

Table 2. ABA Utilization for November 2024

	Managed Care Organizations (MCOs)						TOTALS
	ACLA	AETNA	Healthy Blue	Humana	LHCC	UHC	
Number of CCMs with ASD	1,279	234	618	16	646	528	<b>3,321</b>
Number of PAs Requested for CCMs with ASD	19	4	41	18	183	24	<b>289</b>
Number of PAs approved for CCMs with ASD	19	4	41	18	183	24	<b>289</b>
Number of PAs denied	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Claims Paid for CCMs with ASD	\$244,340	\$116,500	\$397,526	\$89,312	\$560,662	\$534,317	<b>\$1,942,657</b>

PA = Prior Authorization

CCMs = Chisholm Class Members

ASD = Autism Spectrum Disorder

You may visit <https://ldh.la.gov/page/applied-behavior-analysis> for additional information on ABA services.

### EPSDT Support Coordination

Medicaid eligible children/youth under the age of 21 on the Developmental Disabilities Request for Services Registry or those meeting criteria for children with special needs are eligible to receive EPSDT Support Coordination services. This service assists beneficiaries with gaining access to the full range of needed services including medical, social, educational and other services. This includes all services that beneficiaries under age 21 may be entitled to receive through the EPSDT benefit. The support coordinator reviews all available services and assists with making referrals for the services they may be eligible to receive. These may include services such as medical equipment, occupational, physical or speech therapy, personal care service, home health and EPSDT screening. Support coordinators conduct follow-up visits or phone calls monthly to ensure beneficiaries are receiving all authorized services.

More than 1,000 children/youth received EPSDT Support Coordination services in January 2025.