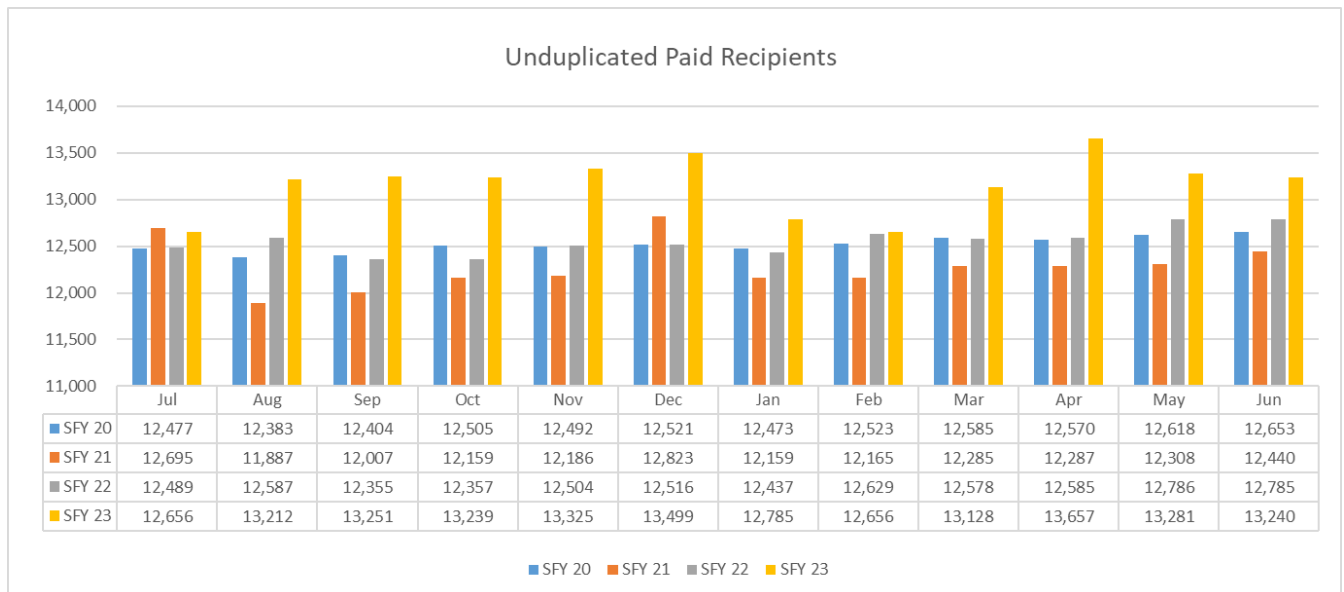


DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL QUARTERLY REPORT FOR THE 2nd QUARTER OF 2023

July 7, 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

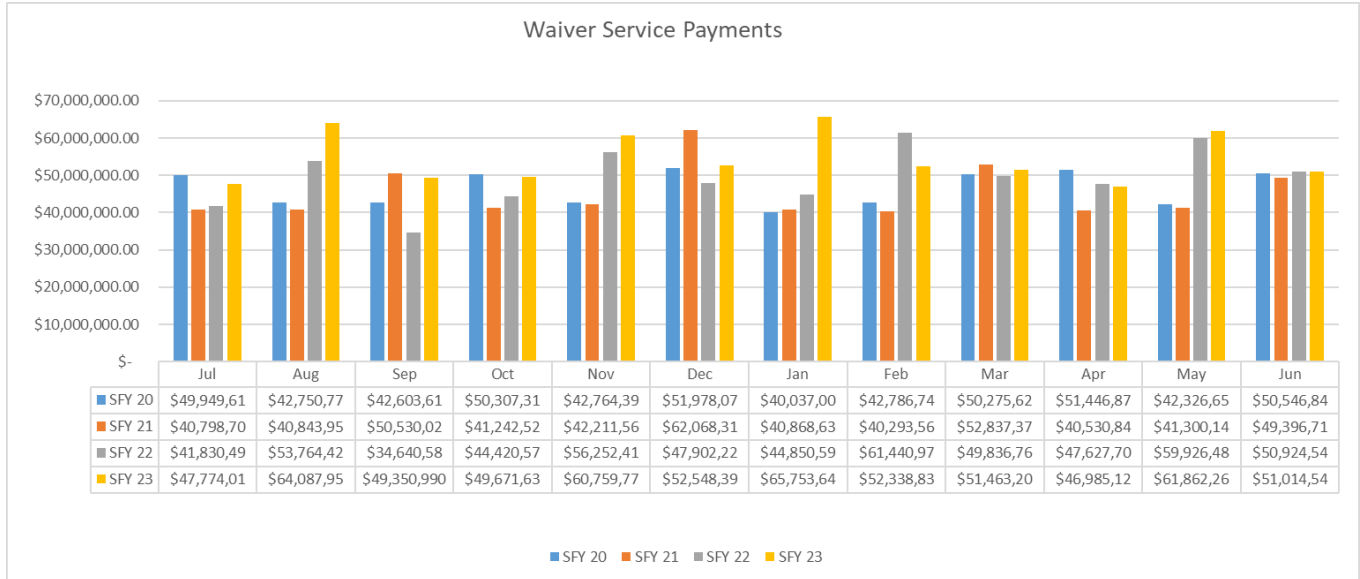
SFY22 – 13,323

SFY23 – 13,827

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	5	4	627		1				155	1	194	984
2	1	19		958	1		1	1		279	1	667	1928
3	19	4		422					1	158		679	1283
4	8	6	1	785						328		1211	2339
5	1	3		172						86		440	702
6	5	1		292						109		423	830
7	4	2		535						162		424	1127
8	2	3		574				1		118		486	1184
9	4	2		358	1			2		294		1105	1766
10	2	11	1	475						2	2	620	1402
Grand Total	47	56	6	5,198	2	1	1	4	1	1,691	4	6,249	13,545

***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).**

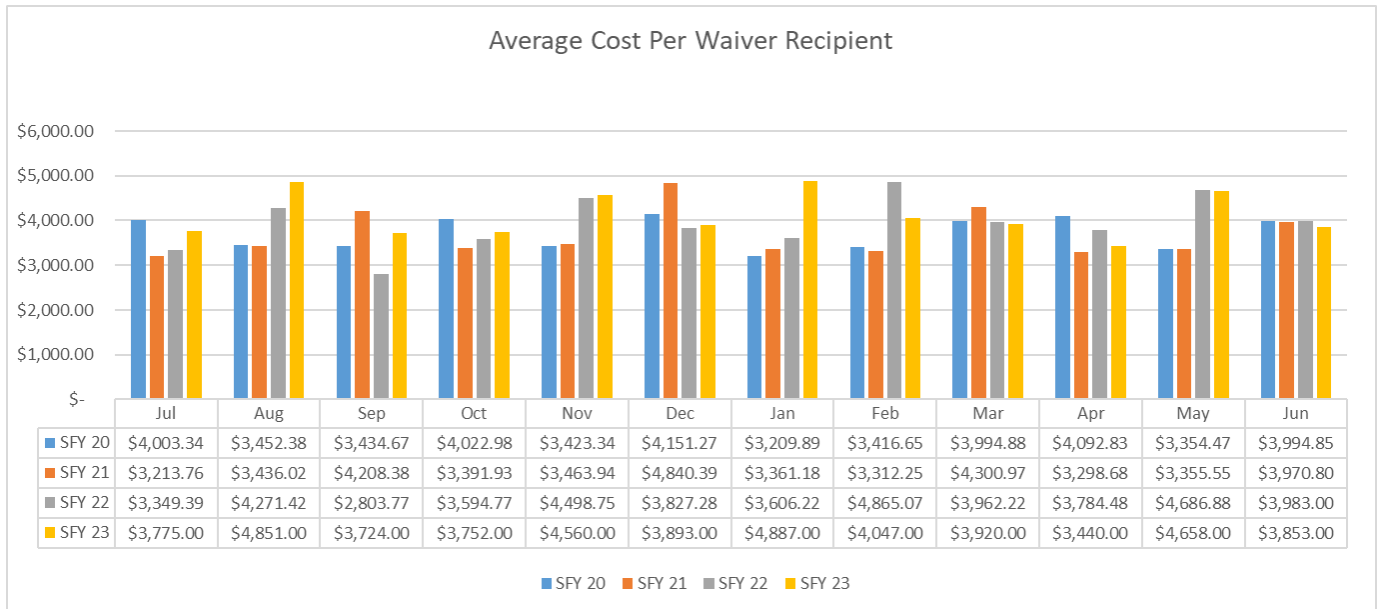
Annual Totals for Waiver Services Payments

SFY20 - \$557,773,523

SFY21 - \$542,922,366

SFY22 - \$593,417,775

SFY23 - \$653,610,377



Annual Average Cost of Waiver per Recipient

SFY20 - \$44,552

SFY21 - \$44,154

SFY22 - \$47,182

SFY23 - \$50,288

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 services for which they may qualify. If an individual has urgent or emergent unmet needs, then 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 waiver needs. OCDD closely monitors the budgeted dollar amount and expenses to ensure that we are able to continue to offer waiver slots to these individuals.

Current Quarter Data, April 1, 2023 to June 23, 2023

Total administrations completed

709

Number of administrations by SUN score	Total
Score of 4, unmet needs at the Emergent level	211
Score of 3, unmet needs at the Urgent level	212
Score of 2, unmet needs at the Critical level	111
Score of 1, unmet needs at the Planning level	72
Score of 0, no identified unmet needs	103
Total	709

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

Reason for Screening	Total
Initials	490
Re-Screenings	219
Total	709

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 May 31, 2023, the current total number of individuals listed in the DD Request for Services Registry (Registry) is 13,522¹.

EarlySteps Participant Data

EarlySteps Child Count as of June 1, 2023: 6,309

Region	Birth to 1	Birth to 2	Birth to 3	Total
Unassigned Region		1	3	4
1	48	129	308	485
2	119	322	569	1010
3	81	238	408	727
4	129	306	439	874
5	64	92	186	342
6	26	63	114	203
7	73	197	350	620
8	77	112	163	352
9	139	375	596	1110
10	62	149	371	582
Total	818	1984	3507	6309

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

- *Supports Waiver*
 - The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is currently reviewing the Supports Waiver (SW) amendment to include incontinence supplies as a service.
 - OCDD is currently working on the following SW rule changes:
 - OCDD is adding incontinence supplies in the amount of \$2,500 per Plan Of Care year (waiting on CMS approval);
 - OCDD is adding transportation as a separate billable service on the day that one of the following services is provided:
 - onsite day habilitation,
 - community life engagement,
 - onsite prevocational,
 - community career planning and
 - individual and group supported employment services;
 - OCDD is adding Community Life Engagement Development as a service;
 - OCDD is revising billing for individual supported employment;
 - OCDD removed the 5 hour daily cap for onsite day habilitation, community life engagement, community career planning, onsite prevocational services and individual supported employment services;
 - OCDD revised the billing for Group Employment from a daily rate to 15 minute increments.
 - We have made changes to the SW manual that CMS has approved. The manual is in the process of getting LDH (internal) approval.
- *Home and Community Based Settings Rule*
 - CMS approved Louisiana's Corrective Action Plan (CAP) on 5/24/2023. States were allowed to request a CAP if they were not in compliance due to the pandemic. The CAP is in effect through 12/31/2024.
 - OCDD has met with providers, and we are accepting CAPs from those who need extra time and guidance to meet compliance. Plans are being accepted through 7/31/2023.
 - OCDD will be working with providers who have a CAP through 1/30/2024. We will be providing technical guidance and assistance, and offering trainings on the HCBS Settings Rule.
 - We will begin our final validation onsite visits for providers with a CAP on 2/1/2023.

Waiver Updates

- *Summary of any activities within Children's Choice (CC), Residential Options Waiver (ROW), or New Opportunities Waiver (NOW)*
 - The PHE ended on May 11, and some exceptions ended on that date. OCDD held roadshows across the state to discuss the end of the exceptions; you can access the slides [here](#).
 - The Targeted Case Management State Plan Amendment was approved. We are currently updating the rule to allow two virtual visits per year (that are not the initial or annual plan of care visit) to align with the CC, SW and ROW.
 - The Environmental Modification Cap was increased from \$7,000 per year to \$12,000 per year.
 - The Specialized Medical Equipment cap was approved by Appendix K and NOW Amendment to increase from \$1,000 per year to \$5,000 per year.
 - Incontinence supplies has been added to the waivers, and will be effective on 10/1/2023.
 - Technology Services with Remote Features has been added to the waivers, and will be effective on 7/1/2023.
- *2023 Regular Legislative Session Updates*
 - House Bill 480 (Representative Dustin Miller)
 - The bill proposed to allow 16 and 17 year olds to be direct support professionals (DSPs) under certain circumstances where they have received an Age Restriction Exception from OAAS or OCDD. This continues the COVID-19 Appendix K exception.
 - Representative Miller agreed to defer the bill to give OCDD, Medicaid, and Health Standards time to work on rulemaking to ensure the change.
 - LDH is in the process of publishing and finalizing those rules.
 - House Bill 367 (Representative Tammy Phelps)
 - The bill provided relative to pupil appraisal for children transitioning from EarlySteps into the school system.
 - The bill requires Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) to ensure that children who reach their third birthday during non-school (summer) months must be evaluated during the summer months.
 - HB 367 was signed by the Governor on June 6, 2023 and became Act 84.
- *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)* The following activities have been approved by CMS, and we must spend the funds on these activities by March of 2025:

- *Systemic therapeutic assessment resources and treatment (START) model assessment and pilot.* This activity will allow Louisiana to bring in a team of experts to do an assessment to identify gaps in services for people with co-occurring behavioral health needs and I/DD. We will set up a pilot program based on the feedback we receive to support individuals in crisis once this assessment is complete.
 - The START team is meeting with stakeholders and advocates. They will be sharing a survey to gather more information, which they will share with DD Council.
- *Infrastructure Standup for Technology First Initiative.* The funding in this activity will help us purchase the equipment we need to begin using technology supports in our waiver. We will be meeting with stakeholders to help decide what these supports look like before we spend any of the money in this activity.
- *Implementation of Value Based Payment (VBP) Model.* VBP is a way that states can pay providers who are able to provide quality supports to people. We will be developing a set of measures or indicators, and providers who meet specific targets will be eligible to receive a payment that is a reward for the quality services they provide. We will be meeting with stakeholders to get feedback on what measures we should consider for this model and payment to providers.
- *Community Practitioners Training.* OCDD has partnered with Louisiana Dental Association, and there has been one continuing education unit for dentists, with more to come, to help them provide dental services to people with I/DD.
 - There has been a significant interest in this training. OCDD has continued to work with LDA and trainings at a regional level are now occurring.
- *Temporary rate increase for Support Coordination.* A 30% rate increase to the support coordination rate has been implemented and will continue as long as funding is available.
 - This 30% rate increase has been added to the “base” budget for fiscal year 2024. This means that it will be funded through the Medicaid budget and not through the American Rescue Plan Act dollars, and it is no longer “temporary.” This activity will be removed next quarter.
- *Direct support workforce and support coordination recruitment and retention bonus.* This funding will be used to give bonus payments to direct support workers. The original plan was to provide retrospective bonuses and prospective bonuses moving forward. Due to prospective bonus payments being subject to overtime rules with Department of Labor, only retrospective bonus payments will be made. This requires changes and reporting to CMS, therefore, it is anticipated it will be at least 90 days before the bonuses are paid out.
- *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 a 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.

MyPlace/Money Follows the Person

- 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 continue receiving funding through 2027.
- MFP participants range from children born with complex needs to teens and adults diagnosed with intellectual/developmental disabilities living in a nursing facility, specialty hospital, or an intermediate care facility for 60 consecutive days.
- OCDD MFP has started planning to implement several initiatives to assist individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities transition from institutional settings into the community. CMS has made a nationwide policy change, allowing individuals who have been in an institution for 60 days to access the MFP program.
- In 2023, MFP assisted in 25 successful participant transitions into their community across Louisiana.
- In 2023, MFP provided training on My Place 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 begin a statewide marketing push, including video and radio advertisements.

Early Steps

- EarlySteps has a new Director, Caroline Nailor-Oglesby. Caroline was the Bureau Chief/Part C Coordinator in Arizona and has more than 28 years of experience working in early intervention. Caroline grew up in Vacherie (St. James Parish) and is a graduate of Southern University.
- Louisiana Part C FFY 2023 Grant Application and General Education Provision Act (GEPA) has been submitted and are under review by the U.S. Department of

OCDD DD Council Report

2023 2nd Quarter

Education/Office of Special Education Programs. There should be updates coming out soon.

- The State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) Meeting is scheduled for July 12th (12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.). You can obtain more information on the meeting details from Alishia Vallien, the SICC chair, at alishia.vallien@la.gov.

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
412	10	13

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 intellectual or developmental disabilities (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 third quarter of FY 22-23 (**January 1, 2023 – March 31, 2023**), OCDD Resource Center clinicians provided consultation and/or direct services that impacted **1,567** 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 third quarter of FY 22-23 (**January 1, 2023 – March 31, 2023**), the nurses conducted **1,003** 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 first quarter of FY 22-23 (**January 1, 2023 – March 31, 2023**):

- **106** training events with clinicians
- University level training for undergraduate and graduate level students at 4 Louisiana University programs, which are:
 - Southeastern Louisiana University
 - Louisiana State 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 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 Managed Care Organizations (MCO) behavioral health medical directors to enhance collaboration, education and training.
- OCDD's Clinical division continued providing formal continuing education (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 (BH) services for Individuals with IDD. This guide has been completed and is being readied for dissemination. The collaborative project also includes membership from the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH), community clinicians, and Coordinated System of Care (CSoC).
- OCDD's Clinical division continued a pilot for an updated risk management system in conjunction with multiple Local Governing Entities (LGEs).

- 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 **January 1, 2023 – March 31, 2023**).

- Between **January 1, 2023 – March 31, 2023** there were **55** urgent referrals made to OCDD.
- During this quarter, **44** urgent cases were resolved, with **28** of the **44** cases (**64%**) 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 **50%** of referrals coming from institutional/acute care settings. Further breakdown within these settings revealed that **25%** of these referrals were from psychiatric hospital settings, **5%** were for persons who were incarcerated, **14%** were supported in



ICF/DD settings, **7%** were in an acute care setting, **0%** 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. 203 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.