

**QUARTERLY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (DD) COUNCIL REPORT**  
**(Submitted for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2021)**

**April 06, 2021**

**SERVICES**

**Developmental Disability Waiver Activities**

The following figures reflect **waiver activities thus far in state fiscal year 2020 - 2021 (July 1, 2020 – March 29, 2021)**:

<b>WAIVER</b>	<b>Offers # *</b>	<b>Linkages # **</b>	<b>Certifications</b>
<b>NOW</b>	N/A	61	29
<b>Children's Choice</b>	416	306	160
<b>Supports</b>	691	440	233
<b>ROW**</b>	N/A	276	130

*\* This is the number of unique individuals made an offer or final offer during this time period.*

*\*\* An individual made a CC or Supports offer may request an exception and be linked to the ROW or NOW.*

The following figures reflect **total waiver numbers as of March 29, 2021**:

<b>WAIVER PROGRAM</b>	<b>Total # of Slots Allocated</b>	<b>Linked/Filled</b>	<b>Total # of Certifications</b>	<b>SLOTS W/O CERTIFIED RECIPIENT</b>	<b>VACANT SLOTS</b>
<b>Mixed I/DD Waivers</b>	14,184	14,121	13,188	966	63

Source: SRI Certifications Report – 3/29/2021

**Request for Services Registry (RFSR) Cumulative From 10/01/2016 to 3/29/2021**

- Developmental Disability (DD) RFSR = **13,176**
  - Individuals with urgent/emergent unmet needs (SUN score 3/4) = **0** (offers made to all as screened and identified 3 or 4—**2,600** in process)
  - Individuals with current needs met (SUN score 0/1/2) = **11,493**
  - Individuals with no identified unmet needs = **6,820** [estimates based on previous information available and information available in Louisiana Service Reporting System (LaSRS)]
  - Individuals in process of scheduling/receiving screening = 5,224

**Request for Services Registry (RFSR) (Current Quarter) 1/1/2021 to 3/29/2021**

- Developmental Disability (DD) RFSR = **13,176**
  - Individuals with urgent/emergent unmet needs (SUN score 3/4) = **0** (offers made to all as screened and identified 3 or 4—**306** in process)
  - Individuals with current needs met (SUN score 0/1/2) = **877**

- Individuals with no identified unmet needs = **353** [estimates based on previous information available and information available in Louisiana Service Reporting System (LaSRS)]

### **Request for Services Registry Screening**

- A total of 18,344 Screening of Urgency of Need (SUN) tools have been completed (as of 12/09/2020) \*\*Note this number does not include the individuals who were closed on the Developmental Disabilities Request for Services Registry (RFSR) for any reason (e.g. acceptance of a waiver off, no current Statement of Approval (SOA), declination of services.
- OCDD continues to screen everyone on the RFSR who can be located and who is willing to participate in the screening, including people who newly move onto the Registry and people who have a change in status. Additionally, routine re-screenings for people with previous SUN scores of 2/1/0 are being conducted.

## **HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED WAIVER SERVICES**

### **Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities Waivers**

On January 7, 2021 the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) renewed the public health emergency until April 21, 2021. The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) requested that CMS grant exceptions to the rules and regulations in the four Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waivers during the COVID-event. The exceptions will continue **until 6 months after the expiration of the Public Health Emergency.**

These exceptions are as follows:

- Allow participant and worker to live in the same home.
- Allow legally responsible relatives to be paid direct support staff.
- Suspend background checks for immediate family members who live in the home and become temporary paid staff
- In ROW/NOW, allow for sharing of staff when needed.
- Convert day habilitation hours to in-home hours when needed.
- Allow 16- and 17-year olds to be paid staff, when no other worker available
- Allow 20 hours/week above capped hours in Children's Choice Waiver
- Allow a Statement of Approval (SOA) to substitute for Level of Care (LOC)
- Allow verbal approval of the Plan of Care (POC)
- Allow virtual visits for: 10 day initial home visit, initial assessment, quarterly home visit, waiver certification visit, and yearly plan of care
- Allow 90Ls to remain in place, not to exceed beyond 12 additional months
- Allow DSW staff to work more than 16 hours per day

OCDD sent a memorandum to providers, support coordinators, and recipients on January 21, 2021 detailing the exceptions that would remain in place (*Appendix K Exceptions Extended, OCDD-SC-21-002, OCDD-P-21-007, OCDD-R-21-003*). If CMS extends the exception timelines OCDD will review those extensions and advise participants, providers, and support coordinators as needed.

OCDD has scheduled Listening Sessions for April 5, 2021 and April 8, 2021 to share plans for Home and Community Based Waiver Services after the COVID-19 Public Health

Emergency ends, and to hear your feedback on those plans. OCDD will also provide information on recent federal legislation and funding opportunities, and would like to hear providers', participants', and support coordinators' ideas about how we should use the funds. OCDD will post the recorded listening session, slides, frequently asked questions and answers, and a summary of suggestions on the [OCDD COVID-19 page](#) once they are available.

### **Pinecrest Supports and Services Center (PSSC) Transition Status**

The following figures reflect transition activities from January 1, 2021 thru March 26, 2021:

- The census of Pinecrest Supports and Services Center to date is 455.
- In calendar year 2020, PSSC admitted 82 individuals and discharged 37. The large number of admissions in 2020 were primarily due to admission of 48 individuals from the former Robinswood School that closed unexpectedly following Hurricane Laura. So far in calendar year 2021, 4 people have been admitted and 8 people have been discharged.
- Thirty one (31) participants are currently planning for a transition from the center.
  - Zero (0) people are anticipated to transition within the next 30 days.
  - Zero (0) are anticipated to transition within the next quarter.

### **EarlySteps**

- As of April 1, 2021, the EarlySteps program was providing services to 4,630 children and their families. The COVID-19 related decrease in child count continues due to some families requesting closure of their child's case, as well as a 25% decrease in referrals overall. Referrals began increasing again in July, 2020, but have not increased to the 2019 level.
- Current COVID-19 service delivery status in Phase 3 has not changed since November:
  - Services in child care centers resumed in September.
  - LDH approved an increased to a maximum of 4 home visits per day (not including daily child care visits) in parishes with less than 5% COVID-19 positivity rates. Each week the regional coordinators send out the parish positivity rates for the parishes in their region so that providers can determine the maximum number of home visits they can make each day. As of March 31, 2021 the majority of parishes are below <5% rate. This service model results in a combination of home and virtual visits for each family. The Governor's current Phase 3 plan continues until April 28; we will revisit the home visiting requirements at that time with the Office of Public Health staff.
  - Suspension of the family cost participation requirement for families with financial impact (such as lost income) continues based on individual family situations, and also includes families in the hurricane-impacted areas—primarily in region 5.
  - Quarterly provider team meetings continue to be conducted virtually.

- Face-to-face visits for intake following referral and eligibility evaluations should be increasing with the decrease in positivity rates as well.
- The 2019-20 Annual Performance Report (APR) was submitted to the Office for Special Education Programs (OSEP) for February 1. Overall, there were improvements in some indicators and slight slippage in others. OSEP have “informal feedback” calls the week of April 13 for clarification on any questions they have. States are given the opportunity to respond to questions and address them without penalty following this call. The final “determination” for the APR will be issued in June. The second part of the APR, the State Systemic Improvement Plan, was submitted on April 1. This report details the results of system improvement from Year 5 activities aligning EarlySteps practices with the Division of Early Childhood Recommended Practices, the state’s evidence-based practice selected for improvement. A summary of the report will be presented to the State Interagency Coordinating Council at their April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting and share with the listserv.

## **INITIATIVES**

### **Employment**

- OCDD continues to participate with the State Employment Leadership Network (SELN) in monthly group webinars, as well as monthly one-on-one technical assistance (TA). OCDD has been working with the SELN on the redesign of the new vocational services and rates.
- OCDD continues to host meetings with the vocational providers to discuss any questions or concerns they may have.
- On February 1, 2021, OCDD began allowing providers to bill for virtual services in day habilitation, prevocational, and individual Supported Employment follow-along services. OCDD is awaiting billing codes for small ratio community day habilitation and prevocational services across waivers.
- OCDD and the local governing entities (LGEs) will continue to work with vocational providers to provide technical assistance to help with moving into compliance with the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Settings Rule. OCDD will be working with the LGEs to begin looking at how to move forward with trainings, and providing technical supports as providers begin to open post-COVID. OCDD and the LGEs will also explore the use of Zoom webinars, and other virtual methods, to assist providers with coming into compliance.
- OCDD continues to be an active participant in the Employment First Team, as well as the State as a Model Employer Team. Both teams are led by the Governor’s Office of Disability Affairs.

### **Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Settings Rule Activities**

The state will resubmit the Home and Community Based Services Settings Transition Plan for final approval as COVID restrictions begin to ease. In order to resubmit the State Transition Plan, OCDD needs to do onsite visits with all of the residential owned and/or

controlled residences. At this time, due to COVID-19, OCDD is unable to make the necessary onsite visits. Once these visits are complete the state will be able to resubmit the addendum.

OCDD is currently working on finalizing the process of ensuring ongoing compliance of providers (once they are in compliance). OCDD is also finalizing plans to ensure that participants are receiving the services they desire, and that services are person centered. OCDD will continue to work with providers in providing ongoing technical assistance and will be providing additional trainings around the settings rule in the coming months.

### **Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration (My Place Louisiana)**

2021 marks a year of anticipated growth in the OCDD MFP program. CMS approved the program to continue receiving funding through at least 2024. CMS has additionally offered a substantial amount of money for Capacity Building. OCDD MFP has started planning to implement several initiatives that will assist individuals with I/DD transition from institutional settings into the community. CMS has made a nationwide policy change, and individuals do not need to be in an institution for 90 days to gain access to funds—new policy allows individuals who have been in an institution for 60 days to gain access to the MFP program. In March of 2021 OCDD hired a new MFP Program Manager, Scott Tuma, who will be spearheading this exciting time in the MFP program.

OCDD transitioned 14 individuals into the community in calendar year 2020, bringing the total number of transitions to 526 between 2009 and 2020. The Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS) also participates in the MFP program. OAAS and OCDD have transitioned a total of 3,311 individuals through the life of the program.

### **Access to Behavioral and Medical Intervention in the Community**

The following information outlines Resource Center (RC) activities, including crisis referrals and trends associated with placement requests to OCDD Central Office for the 2020 calendar year (covering the period of January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020). Additionally, it provides a current update on the Resource Center and Local Governing Entity (LGE) collaboration on the Non-Consensual Sexual Behavior (NSB) process as of March, 2021.

- Between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020 there were 116 crisis referrals, and 31 (27%) of these individuals required admission to Pinecrest Supports and Services Center (PSSC).
- 54 out of 116 cases (47%) received a crisis consultation from the Resource Center, with the ability to divert 80% 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 crisis 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 2020 calendar year, with 74% of referrals coming from institutional/acute care settings. Further breakdown within these settings revealed that 50% of these referrals were from psychiatric hospital settings, 10% were for persons who were incarcerated, 27% were supported in ICF/DD settings, 8% were in an acute care setting, 2% of persons were in a psychiatric residential treatment facility, and 2% were in a nursing facility at the point of referral.

The Resource Center has worked 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. 212 individuals are being followed by the Local Oversight Team (LOT). This quarter there were two reported subsequent incidents of NSB, with one of these incidents involving direct contact (this incident did not result in legal involvement). Both individuals are currently in psychiatric hospitals. The individual who had direct contact will be admitted for longer-term hospitalization to receive needed stabilization. The second individual is expected to return to the current living option upon discharge from the hospital.