

Office of Aging and Adult Services

About

The Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS) was formed within the Department of Health as a healthcare reform initiative, bringing together all of the long-term care programs that serve older adults and people with adult-onset disabilities. OAAS aims to develop, provide and enhance services that offer meaningful choices for people in need of long-term care. The office is committed to developing a long-term care system that provides choice, ensures quality, meets the needs of consumers and caregivers, and does so in a fiscally responsible manner.

Leadership

- **Geary Williams**, Assistant Secretary
- **Natalie Istre**, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Long-Term Supports and Services
- **Vacant**, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Budget and Finance

Adult Protective Services (APS)

Adult Protective Services (APS) is responsible for investigating reports and arranging for services to protect vulnerable adults ages 18-59 and emancipated minors. APS investigates cases of individuals that live in their homes, their caregiver's home, at a care facility when the accused is not a staff member, and/or in an unlicensed or non-regulatory setting such as a non-therapeutic group home or in a state run facility. The Adult Protective Services Reporting Law (Louisiana R.S. 14:403.2) requires all Louisiana residents to report abuse, neglect, exploitation, and extortion of adults with disabilities. The law grants immunity to any person who reports in good faith and who cooperates in an investigation by the protective services agency. The law also provides for criminal penalties for persons who know of incidents and fail to report or who knowingly make false reports. Reports may be made 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by contacting the APS Hotline at 1-800-898-4910 and online at ldh.la.gov/APS.

APS investigates the following:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Caregiver neglect
- Financial exploitation
- Self-neglect

Facility-Based Programs

- OAAS operates a **Nursing Facilities Admissions Unit**, which determines level of care for all individuals prior to their admission to Medicaid-certified nursing facilities. Level of care determinations are made for all individuals regardless of the individual's payer source. OAAS also manages the federally required **Level I PASRR** (pre-admission screening tool for the presence of mental illness or a developmental disability) process.

- **Nursing facilities** provide 24-hour care for rehabilitative, restorative and ongoing skilled nursing care to patients or residents in need of assistance with Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) such as:
 - Eating
 - Bathing
 - Dressing
 - Grooming
 - Moving from one surface to another
 - Walking or using a wheelchair
 - Toileting
 - Changing positions in bed
 - Skilled Nursing
- Other services provided may include:**
- Residential care – 24 hour nursing care
 - Rehabilitation
 - Specialized services as determined through Level II determination
- **Villa Feliciana Medical Complex (VFMC)** is located in Jackson, Louisiana, and provides medical care and rehabilitative services to medically complex patients diagnosed with chronic diseases, disabilities and terminal illnesses. The facility’s goal is to ensure each patient is provided with high quality, compassionate health care that meets their individualized medical or rehabilitation needs in a safe, homelike environment, and which affords the patient the opportunity to obtain the highest possible quality of life.

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)

- The **Community Choices Waiver (CCW)** program provides services in the home and in the community to older adults or adults with disabilities who qualify. CCW does not provide support 24 hours per day. This program provides services such as:
 - Support Coordination (also known as case management)
 - Transition Intensive Support Coordination (provided to people moving out of nursing facilities)
 - Transition Services (provided to people moving out of nursing facilities)
 - Personal Assistance Services (supervision or assistance with basic self-care activities or tasks such as dressing, bathing, and preparing meals)
 - Monitored In-Home Caregiving (MIHC)
 - Nursing Services
 - Assistive Devices and Medical Supplies
 - Skilled Maintenance Therapy Services (Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapies)
 - Home Delivered Meal Services
 - Caregiver Temporary Support Services (respite care for family caregivers)
 - Housing Stabilization Services
 - Housing Transition/Crisis Intervention Services
- The **Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)** coordinates and provides all Medicare and Medicaid funded preventive, primary health, acute and long-term care services so that older adults eligible for nursing facility level of care can continue living in the community while enhancing their quality of life. This program provides services across all care settings on a 24-hour basis each day of the year. PACE Centers are located in the Greater New Orleans area, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, and Alexandria.

- The **Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) Waiver** is a non-residential program that can be an alternative to nursing home care for people who do not need care 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This program does not, by itself or in combination with other OAAS programs, provide supports 24 hours a day. ADHC centers, through health and social services, provide supervised care to adults in a supportive and safe setting during part of a day. Participants' needs are met through medical/nursing services, medication supervision/administration, social services, personal care and dietary services. For most people, depending on where they live, ADHC centers provide transportation to and from the center.
- The **Long Term – Personal Care Services (LT-PCS)** program provides personal care attendant services to help qualified participants with Activities of Daily Living. This program provides help with activities such as eating, bathing, dressing, preparing and storing meals, shopping, laundry, and reminders about taking medications. This program does not, by itself or in combination with other OAAS programs, provide supports 24 hours a day.

Transition Support Programs

- The **Louisiana Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)** program combines permanent, subsidized rental housing with flexible, individualized housing supports to people with disabilities. PSH offers rental assistance for a variety of integrated housing units so that individuals with disabilities are able to remain in, or reenter, the community. PSH participants pay 30% of their monthly income on rent. Community Support Specialists who assist PSH tenants in the application and leasing process provide services that support successful tenancy. This specialist helps individuals to seek reasonable accommodations and supports in acquiring the skills and resources necessary to be a successful tenant. Tenancy support services are included at no additional cost. The services depend on the needs of the residents, but may include:
 - Pre-tenancy support, such as help obtaining the necessary documents to complete a housing application and moving into the new unit
 - Assistance with developing daily living skills specific to managing his/her own home, including managing money, medications, and transportation, using community resources, and other self-care requirements
 - Assistance communicating with landlord and neighbors
 - Social support
 - Strength-based, solution-focused individual counseling
 - Crisis intervention and 24-hour emergency services
- Louisiana developed the **My Choice Louisiana** program with two primary goals: (1) divert individuals with SMI away from inappropriate nursing facility placement and (2) identify current facility residents with SMI and offer the opportunity to transition to an integrated setting. The intention is to serve individuals in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs, to honor the principles of self-determination and choice, and to provide quality services in integrated settings to achieve these goals. Participants are provided with transition and discharge planning and community-based services sufficient to meet their needs. Dedicated Transition Coordinators provide additional support for at least one year post-transition.

- **My Place Louisiana** (or **Money Follows the Person (MFP)**, as it is known nationally) is a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) long-term care rebalancing demonstration that was part of the 2005 Deficit Reduction Act. Since 2008, Louisiana has participated in the demonstration which affords Medicaid long-term care recipients currently residing in institutional settings, the opportunity to transition back into a community setting with Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS). The demonstration offers the recipient choice over where they want to receive their Medicaid long-term care services. Through enrolling in the demonstration, recipients may also be eligible to receive available supports not covered through waiver services or other state plan services that can assist in removing barriers that may arise during the transition process. The state receives an enhanced federal match for the first 365 days of HCBS services post transition for all My Place Louisiana participants. Since its implementation in September 2009, OAAS has transitioned over 3,000 participants from nursing homes to home and community-based settings.

Other Programs

- The **Traumatic Brain and Spinal Cord Injury (THSCI) Trust Fund** program was created to provide services in a flexible, individualized manner to Louisiana residents who survive traumatic brain or spinal cord injuries. The TBSCI program assists people to return to a reasonable level of functioning and independent living in their communities. This program provides payment for services related to the individual's injury such as: evaluations, post-acute medical care rehabilitation, therapies, medication, home and vehicle accessibility modifications, medical supplies and equipment, dental services and personal care assistant services.
- The **State Personal Assistance Services (SPAS)** program provides personal assistance services to persons with significant disabilities to assist them with their Activities of Daily Living (ADLs), in order to support and enhance their employability and/or to avoid unnecessary institutionalization. Services may include but are not limited to: personal care assistance for ADLs, assistive technology and equipment for ADL needs, home and/or vehicle accessibility modifications, durable medical equipment, evaluations, medications and dental services.
- OAAS is responsible for the administration and monitoring of **Civil Monetary Penalty (CMP) Reinvestment** projects. CMP Reinvestment Projects are dedicated to driving improvements in quality of care provided to nursing facility residents and to protect or improve their quality of life. The program aims to equip nursing facility staff as well as administrators with technical tools and assistance to enhance resident care. For more information about CMP projects, visit: www.ldh.la.gov/CMP.

Learn More

For additional information about OAAS services and programs, visit ldh.la.gov/OAAS.