



State of Louisiana


Louisiana Department of Health
Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities

MEMORANDUM

OCDD-P-20-006
OCDD-R-20-001
OCDD-SC-20-001

DATE: March 18, 2020

TO: All I/DD Home and Community Based Waiver Providers
OCDD Waiver Support Coordinators
Acumen
Morning Sun
Employers in self-direction

FROM: Julie Foster Hagan 

RE: COVID-19 Exemptions

ATTENTION: ALL I/DD HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED WAIVER SERVICE PROVIDERS AND SUPPORT COORDINATORS

On March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic. The same day Louisiana declared a Public Health Emergency. The Louisiana Department of Health discovered the first case wasn't travel related but spread through community interaction.

As a result, the Louisiana Department of Health is engaged in the following priority public health actions:

1. Working with healthcare facilities with presumptive patients to identify exposed healthcare workers and make appropriate recommendations;
2. Ensuring all recommended infection control precautions are implemented in the healthcare facilities until we determine that the patient is no longer infectious,
3. Notifying and monitoring close contacts;
4. Coordinating with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC);
5. Updating the public by website and television twice daily; and
6. Maintaining an information line.

The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) has taken steps to mitigate risk to individuals and service providers by requesting exceptions to current rules for the four Home and Community Based Waivers (NOW, ROW, SW, CC). Waiver service providers may implement the following exceptions without a formal revision to the Comprehensive Plan of Care (CPOC); however, service providers must notify the support coordination agency of these changes.

The exceptions are as follows:

- Allowing for sharing as needed,
- Allowing worker to live in the recipient's home to provide Individual and Family Support (IFS) services,
- Allow recipient to temporarily reside with worker if necessary,
- Allowing payment to legally responsible relatives for IFS in-home services on a temporary basis,
- Allowing current assessments (90Ls) to remain in place until the resolution of the pandemic,
- Allowing telehealth such as face time and skype for the 10-day visit requirement for initial participants, 30-day timeline for SIS/LA Plus assessments,
- quarterly support coordination visit and allow for face time or skype for the waiver certification by the OCDD office or it's designee,
- Allowing support coordinators and providers to substitute face-to-face contacts with
- Telehealth calls, face time or skype so as not to expose participants who are medically fragile/elderly or have medically fragile/elderly caregivers,
- Allowing revisions without signatures,
- Auto revising plans, converting day program hours to IFS without paper revisions,
- Allowing DSWs to work beyond the 16 hours when necessary,
- Allowing legally responsible relatives to temporarily work as Companion Care workers,
- Extensions of the yearly CPOC when necessary.