

# OCDD Quarterly Provider Meeting/Webinar

## LDH/OCDD Updates

August 19, 2021

We appreciate the efforts of everyone in making sure that our Home and Community Base Waiver recipients are taken care of, they are safe and coverage is provided according to their comprehensive plan of care.

### **ICF/DD Rates -**

- The ICF/DD rates have been uploaded, effective, July 1, 2021. There should not be any issues in getting reimbursed at the higher rate. If there is a problem contact me at 225.342.0095 or [Paul.Rhorer@La.Gov](mailto:Paul.Rhorer@La.Gov) or the rate and audit section. There is a process that we have to go through in rulemaking but, we are hopeful that everything will be in place for by October 1, 2021.

### **DSW Hiring Exceptions-**

The 16 hours of training is still required but is not required before the direct support worker starts to work with the recipient. Once a nominal amount of oversight and review of the individual has been done, the rest of the training can be done once the direct staff is hired. The direct must complete the following before entering a recipient's home.

- Complete a background check.
- Complete abuse & neglect training.
- Training on Universal Precaution in regards to Covid-19

### **Residential Options Waiver-**

- Notice of intent for the Residential Options Waiver was posted on the registry July 21, 2021.
- Rule Changes to the Residential Options Waiver
  1. a. The Residential Waiver Option is a tiered two waiver of Tiered Waiver Process; an individual must have the Supports Waiver or the Children's Choice Waiver and move up to the ROW when they reach a certain age.

**OR**

b. Priority groups can move from the Supports Waiver into the ROW automatically if they are in a developmental center such as Pinecrest or have a high acuity level.
  2. ROW Mobility Process is the ability to increase a recipient's budget based on needs for the remainder of the Comprehensive Plan of Care Year or until the need for additional service hours has ended. This may occur prior to the individual going into the New Opportunities Waiver.
  3. Monitored In Home Care - Services received from alive-in caregiver (who could be a family member or who may be unrelated). The caregiver receives a daily payment (called a stipend), and is supported by a care team which includes a care manager and a nurse.

4. Clarification in regards to Adult Day Health Care licensing standards. Adult Day Health Care has a different license than the Adult Day Care.
5. Aligned Vocational Services in the Residential Options Waiver with the services in the Supports and the New Opportunity Waivers to include time of 15 minute increments and payment amounts.
6. Removed the exclusion in Community Living Supports of parents of an adult child as the paid worker, but the parent can be the worker, if they don't live with the client and also if they're not the legal guardian.
7. Assisted Devices Clarifications - These services are limited and are not otherwise covered under the state plan or EPSDT in the Residential Options Waiver. A Residential Options Waiver recipient cannot use their entire CPOC budget for environmental modifications or assistive devices. A recipient use two services every month, which includes support coordination and in-home service. The budgeted amount for any environmental modification should leave a budget to cover the 30-day rule. A sufficient amount must remain in budget. For Questions or Concerns regarding the Residential Options Waiver contact Denise Boyd at 225.342.5647 or [Denise.Boyd@La.Gov](mailto:Denise.Boyd@La.Gov).

### **Vaccines –**

As of Friday, August 13, 2021, 62% vaccinated for all Home & Community Based Waivers Programs this percentage includes OAAS, OCDD, and LTFCs participants 16 and over

- 40% vaccinated, or OCDD waiver aged 12 to 15
- 50%, support coordination
- 47% for provider agencies

According to our governor, we needed to get vaccinated like yesterday. CDC came out, and decided that we are going to have need a third vaccination the booster, at least six to eight months after you've had the second dose and some people haven't had their first dose.

In our hospitals almost 90% of the people there severely ill, has not been vaccinated. Please get staff, recipients, and support coordinators to change their mind about vaccinations. Please give them facts. The CDC website is full of information on facts which dispels the myths.

### **Emergency Preparedness-**

We all must have an Emergency Evacuation Plan. Emergency Preparedness and Disability Awareness trainings are available. The Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council has contracted with Niagara University to offer emergency preparedness training that's now available on their website at <https://laddc.org/>.

## **NOW Renewals-**

- Updated language under waiver description; Cleared up language as it relates to the SPOE, SUN, Prior Authorizations and the Tiered Waiver Process.
- Added language to the renewal that I will allow sharing across waivers.
- Amended several service definitions for the Vocational and Habilitation Services ensuring that the definitions are consistent across all waivers.
- Asked CMS for an exception to include the Appendix K Exceptions in a renewal as a permanent measure as it relates any catastrophe.
- Updated language pertaining to legally responsible relatives providing personal care services where they are utilizing 15 min. increments rates for payment. Legally responsible adults can provide Monitored In-Home Services which is a daily per diem rate. A parent can provide care to their own child under Extraordinary care; exceeding the range of activities that a legally responsible individual would ordinarily perform on behalf of the person with the disability. The parent can work 40 hours per week for family anything over would have to hire someone else.
- Made updates to the rights and responsibilities form; the new document will released soon and requires the signature of individual and or family member.
- Individuals and or family members must agree to cooperate and work with the service provider and support coordinators.
- We made several changes to critical incident reporting and training.

## **SIMS and Critical Incidents Updates –**

Critical incidents, always remain important and will continue to be an area where we try to improve. SIMS is the statewide Incident Management System. We have been experiencing difficulty with the software provider in terms of updating the prior authorization files for participants who are in SIMS

1. WellSky has not been able to successfully load the Prior Authorization updates to participant records since August 4, 2020.
2. LDH program offices & OTS are working with WellSky to get successful completion of this historic prior authorization file; it is necessary for us to catch them all up, to start the nightly PA refresher into SIMS.
3. PA files that originate from SRI are accurate; the problem occurs with the file transfers.
4. The files have to be encrypted and unencrypted and re encrypted as they move from one location to another. The files are going from SRI to LDH and then to WellSky.
5. Security and HIPAA are the main concerns so there are some pretty complicated encryption keys that are being used.

### **How does this affect you?**

1. If the PA is not caught up, the participant record will not be available when a direct service provider does a search when entering a critical incident and they will not be able to populate the critical incident with the person's name.

- Many of you have experienced this, we have worked on it. In a lot of cases, I can go in as a system administrator and manually add the participant to that critical incident, I cannot change the participants profile or record to amend those days so that it's caught up for every situation. So, it is a case by case basis and a critical incident report by critical incident report basis. If I can do it, I will.
- Keep in mind, if you have a participant where a prior authorization is issued for the first time after August 4, 2020, that person may not be in SIMS at all. Those historic PA records have not been loaded into SIMS, so SIMS does not recognize that person at all, if they had any waiver services prior to that time, even if there was an interruption, there is a chance that they are in there and there's a chance that I can go ahead and manually populate your critical incident with their name.

If you have questions or concerns relating to SIMS please send emails to [SIMS\\_support@La.gov](mailto:SIMS_support@La.gov). This is Clearinghouse email address for all SIMS requests for assistance and it monitored weekly by one or the other of the LDH offices that use SIMS. Cases are triaged to the appropriate program office for resolution.

### **Up Coming SIMS Training-**

SIMS and Critical Incident trainings will be presented in segments. For instance a very basic introduction to SIMS, a more advanced course, and finally a troubleshooting short course.

There will be a training for support coordinators due to importance to the whole process of what happens with critical incidents. Technical support will be provided to waiver offices around the state. This will include some targeted technical training.

Be on the lookout, we will post any training that is becoming available through zoom webinars on the LaSRS website.

A refresher course on abuse and neglect training was completed in June of 2021. During June, we had about 1200 people to attend 5 scheduled training events. Providers were expected to attend. Please do not schedule attendance at the webinar for your entire staff; one or two people from each DSP agency can be responsible for conveying that information and using it as training material for the rest of their staff.

You certainly have the option to require anybody in your office to attend the training but it would be very difficult to bring in a lot of people who may be are working out in the field.

You may contact me at [Dolores.Sarna@LA.Gov](mailto:Dolores.Sarna@LA.Gov) if you have any questions or concerns regarding SIMS or Critical Incident Reporting.

### **Provider Relations-**

- To update information provider information please use the Fillable LDH/OCDD Freedom of Choice Form. Email completed forms to [Anita.Lewis@la.gov](mailto:Anita.Lewis@la.gov)
- Denials: 190 series will go to SRI. All other denials send Provider Relations Manager including the remittance advice.

## Change of ownership vs Change of information-

The Health Standards Section (HSS) of the Louisiana Department of Health has responsibility for the licensing all healthcare facilities in the State of Louisiana that are subject to licensing statutes. HSS also has a federal contract with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to conduct certification surveys and complaint surveys in programs that are Medicare and/or Medicaid certified. Health Standards can be reached at 225.342.0138, fax 225.342.5073 if you have a complaint email, [SSComplaints@la.gov](mailto:SSComplaints@la.gov) and general inquiries [HSS.Mail@la.gov](mailto:HSS.Mail@la.gov).

The difference between a Change of Ownership (CHOW) and a Change of Information (CHOI) are several things.

- One, a Change of Ownership means that you are acquiring a physical asset, such as buying the building, computers, furniture, etc. It is something that is tangible; an asset that you are purchasing, not only the title or in the business license. If it is a mere Stock Exchange and just the purchase of the license, then that is called a Change of Information.
- Another difference is that a Change of Ownership costs \$600.00 and a Change of Information costs \$0.00.

The Change of Ownership application can be found by accessing <https://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/page/3764>. The completed application is routed to the legal department and the legal department reviews the information and determines if it meet either Change of Ownership or Change of Information criteria. Once the information is receive from legal, the provider is notified the determination.

For information about Home and Community Based Provider Services, visit: <https://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/page/3787>

For information about Case Management (Support Coordination), visit: <https://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/page/2991>

You may contact Adrienne Marchand by phone at 225-342-2957 or by email at [Adrienne.Marchand2@la.gov](mailto:Adrienne.Marchand2@la.gov).

**ABLE** - The Louisiana Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) account program allows individuals and families to save private funds to support persons with disabilities in endeavors to maintain health, independence, and quality of life.

The advantage of this program is that it allows the family to save without worrying about whether the assets in an account will be counted as an asset for purposes of determining eligibility for federal and state benefits programs such as Medicaid and Social Security.

An account owner can personally save up to \$15,000 per year or save with help from family and friends. As long as the balance in an account does not meet or exceed \$100,000, the funds will not be not be counted as a resource for purposes of determining eligibility for SSI. In addition, if an account does meet or exceed \$100,000, SSI will only be suspended; it will not be

permanently canceled. Once the balance in the account goes below this \$100,000 threshold, the SSI benefits can be reinstated.

### **Eligibility**

Louisiana ABLE Accounts are available to eligible U.S. citizens and legal residents of the State of Louisiana with a valid Social Security number who:

- Developed the onset of his/her blindness or disability before the date on which they became 26 years old; and
- Eligible for Social Security Disability Income – Title II SSA; OR
- Eligible for Social Security Income – Title XVI SSA; OR
- Have a disability certification on file with the IRS

Information regarding LA ABLE - Louisiana's Achieving a Better Life Experience can be accessed by visiting <https://www.able.osfa.la.gov/forms.aspx> **NEXT ZOOM Meeting/Webinar is to be determined.**

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***Send agenda items to OCDD-HCBS@LA.GOV***