

**OCDD STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TEAM MEETING MINUTES
HELD ONLINE**

March 8, 2023 from 12:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Call to Order – 12:33 pm by Konstance Causey, Chair

Attendance:

SAC Voting Members Roll Call: 13 out of 17 – 3 vacant slots – Had a Quorum

Region I – MHSD – Penny Currand – not present – Holly Bell –present

Region II – CAHSD – Michelle Walls – present – Al Thibodeaux - present

Region III – SCLHSA – Julie Folse – present – Charlie Michel – present

Region IV – AAHSD – Rebecca Fruge’ – not present – Carmen Cetnar – not present

Region V – IMCAL – Mylinda Elliott – present – Dana Fullington – not present

Region VI – CLHSD – Kristen Reed – present

Region VII – NLHSD – no representation – 2 vacancies

Region VIII – NEDHSA – Konstance Causey – present – Nicole Bilberry – present

Region XI – FPHSA – Suzanne Bourgeios – present – Kristen Essaied – present

Region X – JPHSA – Kathy Dwyer – present – Jen Walle – present

OCDD AD HOC Members

Julie Foster Hagan – OCDD – not present

Paul Rhorer – OCDD – present

Tanya Murphy – OCDD – present

Brenda Sharp – OCDD – present

Jacquelyne Cobb – OCDD – present

Amy Greer – OCDD – not present

Charles Ayles – OCDD – not present

Bernard Brown – OCDD – not present

General Public:

Stephanie Frazer, Stephen Kauffman, Katelyn Ramsey, Susan Rhein, Donie Perry, Kasey Hill, Carmen O’Mara, Tammie Schilling, Gail Roussel, Karissa Jackson. Torrie Keller, Precious Alexander, Shannon thorn, Shannon D’Aquillia, Raemi Bieber

- **Konstance** – called for a motion to approve the agenda.
Myllinda – motioned to approve – Kathy Dwyer – second the motion
- **Konstance** – called for motion to approve the minutes.
Kathy Dwyer – motioned to approve with amendments – Kristen Essaid – second the motion

Public Comment – Limited 3 minutes per person

- Steve Kauffman – as for a moment of silence for Lynnette Fontenot’s passing.

OCDD Report – Paul Rhorer gave the report for Julie Foster Hagan

● **Budget Update**

- There were some “glitches” with getting the new transportation rate of a flat \$20 / day for transportation in place. We believe all of these issues have been addressed, and if providers bill appropriately, they will receive the \$20 / day rate moving forward. The system will also provide retrospective payments for July 1 – current for transportation. We just received approval of the Supports Waiver from CMS, and we will be working to add transportation as a service, as that was approved.
- EarlySteps rate increases – providers rate changes and retroactive payments have been complete. Case management rate increases and retroactive payments have been made; the target to change case management to a flat rate billing system has been extended because we have had issues with changing this in the billing system. We recently transitioned to a new system, and it is taking longer than anticipated.

● **Legislative Update**

- Legislative session will be April 10 – June 8 this year. OCDD is not proposing any new legislation. Rate increases that were put in place in October of 2021 are currently continued in the budget being presented to the legislature.

● **COVID Update**

- The federal public health emergency is scheduled to end May 11, 2023.

● **Appendix K Exceptions in Waiver Application Update**

- OCDD has been hosting “road shows” across the state. We do understand that some people reported they were not made aware of the meetings, and we apologize for that. We did send the information through our usual channels, and we asked that SC agencies and the self-direction fiscal intermediaries helped us to get the word out. We are not sure why some people were not notified. We will have a webinar on March 20th, and we have asked again that all waiver participants be made aware of this webinar. We will be recording the webinar and putting it on our OCDD website, so anyone can review it.

- We will also put together a Frequently Asked Questions / Answers document that will be placed on our website.
- We are currently developing several training and informational sessions for individuals receiving services, family members, SC agencies, and provider agencies, and we hope to have these rolled out soon. It will provide further detail on expectations and regulations pertaining to our waiver changes.

● **SUN Screening Update**

Total administrations completed 12/1/2022 – 2/28/2023 805

| Number of administrations by SUN score | Total | Total % |
|---|--------------|----------------|
| Score of 4, unmet needs at the Emergent level | 192 | 24% |
| Score of 3, unmet needs at the Urgent level | 256 | 32% |
| Score of 2, unmet needs at the Critical level | 149 | 18% |
| Score of 1, unmet needs at the Planning level | 65 | 8% |
| Score of 0, no identified unmet needs | 143 | 18% |
| Total | 805 | |

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

| Reason for Screening | Total |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Initials | 598 |
| Re-Screenings | 207 |
| Total | 805 |

As of February, 28, 2023, the current total number of individuals listed in the DD Request for Services Registry (Registry) is 13,387¹.

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.

● **American Rescue Plan Act HCBS Funds Update**

- o *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 contract has been approved and we anticipate work will start in April of 2023.
- o *Infrastructure Standup for Technology First Initiative.* The funding in this activity will help us purchase the equipment that is needed to begin using technology supports in our waiver. We will be meeting with stakeholders to help inform what these supports look like before we spend any of the money in this activity.
- o *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.
- o *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. We are now working with regional dental associations to add more opportunities.
- o *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 available.
- o *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. At this time, we are still waiting for CMS approval for the changes in the bonus payments. No date is available for the timeline of this pay out.
- **Act 421: Children’s Medicaid Option Update – Tanya Murphy**
 - o As of 3/3/2023:
 - 2,432 applications received
 - 607 pending review
 - 843 denials
 - o 697 did not respond
 - o 146 did not meet LOC / MEDT criteria

- 940 approved
 - 42 withdrawn
 - 941 phone calls referred to Act 421 staff
- **Acts 450 and 366 Update: Comprehensive Dental Services for Adults with I/DD**
 - The state plan amendment to add dental coverage for adults in ICF/IIDs has been submitted to CMS.
 - Comprehensive dental services for adults in waiver began 7/1/2022. OCDD is continuing to work with providers and case managers to ensure understanding of how to access services.
- **Early Steps Update – Brenda Sharp**
- Following SAC meeting 1/11/2023, OCDD and EarlySteps reviewed the available data to determine if additional information / data could be pulled to identify children who are “closed” due to no response vs. other reasons. This data is not currently input into the system in a manner that could be pulled to assess.
- Activities that have been undertaken to ensure families have the information they need regarding transition from EarlySteps to OCDD eligibility since 2021:
 - Require LGE to report information in Participant Services for all children / families who indicate they want a “referral” to the LGE
 - All LGEs updated their processes to ensure communication and outreach with children / families who indicate they want a referral to the LGE
 - This includes requirement for 3 attempts to contact the families to begin the eligibility determination process, with at least 2 different types of attempts (letter / phone call / e-mail)
- The EarlySteps support coordinator discusses transition and provides relevant information to the family at least twice per year, which includes discussion of transition into the school system and transition into the OCDD system.
- OCDD and EarlySteps often receive concerns from families about gaps in our system that we work to resolve. In the past 3 years, there have been no concerns brought to LDH’s attention for families who did not understand the transition process.
- Children who are in EarlySteps are eligible for TEFRA due to meeting ES eligibility criteria. These children will lose TEFRA at age 3 if they do not meet nursing facility or hospital level of care, and they do not go through the OCDD eligibility process for redetermination of eligibility to receive an SOA. We are in the process of updating / training the EarlySteps support coordinators, so they can ensure families utilizing the TEFRA option are aware of the need to meet ICF/IID level of care through OCDD eligibility.

Questions/Comments/Chat:

- Carmen O'Mara – Could there be more expressed about what determines “exceptions” to employer/employee conflict.
- Paul – As of November 11, 2023 the employer will not be eligible to be an employee.
- Kathy – Related to Employer/Employee relationship, it is a federal requirement that cannot continue the services because the pandemic is over.
- Paul – It is the State level not Federal.
- Precious Alexander – If a child's SUN Assessment was rated a 1, what waivers of services does that qualify a child for?
- Suzanne Bourgeois – Many Providers are still at pandemic level staffing.
- J- Can you please provide a written description of what is considered “Extraordinary Care” and how it will be determined (i.e. progress notes, CPOC)
- Tammi Schilling – Will any virtual visits be allowed to continue after November 11, 2023 for Children's Choice (CC), Residential Opportunity Waiver (ROW) Supports Waiver (SW) for Support Coordination. In November will caregivers be required to be someone outside of the home.
- Paul – no the family members living inside of the home will be allowed 40 hours.
- Kathy – the 40 hour max for family members in the home providing the services is a federal regulation correct?
- Paul – It's not a federal rule, it's what OCDD put in place.
- Kathy – added a link to the chat:
<https://www.homecaremag.com/new/louisiana/expands-monitored-homecaregiving-program>
- Kathy – Are there any updates on the Retention Bonus?
- Paul – According to Medicaid the bonuses should start going out in April.

Reports from Regional Advisory Committee:

Region I – Holly Bell reported:

- Had a meeting February 10th from 10:00 am – noon – virtually
- Next meeting April 10, 2023

Region II – Michelle Wall

- Met January 17, 2023 report criteria coming in.
- AP and IFS/DD reported:
- Employment – total – 367,000
- EarlySteps – 100% - 466 individuals served
- Budget –
- Rental Assistance have gone up significantly
- Ashley McReynolds shared -

Region III – Charlie Michel reported:

- Had a meeting scheduled unfortunately it was cancelled.

Region IV – No Representative present

Region V – Mylinda Elliott reported:

- Was supposed to have a meeting but

Region VI – Kristen Reed reported:

- Had a quorum
- Filling the rest of the slots for

Region VII – no Representative to report

Region VIII – Nicole Bilberry reported:

- Had a meeting January 23, 2023, had a quorum
- Second Quarter – 85 interviews
- Individual & Family Support – 1 IFS
- 26 meetings held
- Amount of funds
- Flexible Family Fund:
 - o -150/150
 - o 151/151
 - o 16/16
- Gwen Emlin – did report
- Old Business
- New Business
- Public – one parent in attendance raised a question
- Next meeting - April 25, 2023 @ 1:30pm

Region IX – Suzanne Bourgeois reported:

- No quorum
- FPHSA reported:
 - o Waiver Services – 1, 961 individuals
 - o SUN Screening
 - o MFP Grant
 - o 8 Committee meetings
 - o FHF
 - o 3 Work Shops – Education
 - o ABLE Club had activities as well
- Quality Management
 - o Employment – 3-FY 23 9.1%
 - o Next Meeting May 9, 2023

Region X – Jen Walle reported:

- o EarlySteps reported:
- o IFS – 96.17%
- o Flexible Family Fund – 281 individuals currently on waiting list
- o 284 –
- o Employment
- o Discussed what can be done
- o Discussed forming a task force
- o Next RAC meeting April 25, 2023
- o Will report at the next meeting.

Dental Task Force Report:

- Kathy Dwyer reported that the taskforce would be meeting this Friday.
- Efforts will be focusing on training. Both Pre-service training and Continuing Education training for existing Dentist. Funded by OCDD through rescue funds.
- Working with staff from OCDD Resource Center

OLD BUSINESS: SAC Members

- Currently we have 17 voting members
- 3 vacant positions – 1 in Region VI and 2 in Region VII

NEW BUSINESS

- No new business

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Parent commented about the lack of placement services for individuals with DD and co-occurring behavioral health issues. She commented about the abuse a neglect of her son in a psychiatric facility which would not allow parental visits, and her need to keep up the advocacy and stay vigilant.
- Mentioned HCR38-a concurrent resolution to address individuals with dual diagnoses
- Shannon D (caregiver) asked if anyone has looked at the impact of 16yo-18yo no longer being able to work as direct support staff? Remarks were that it was not believed to have a large impact on the workforce, though there were understandable considerations that certain individuals may be good workers.
- Kathy recommended trying to get a representative from Child Protective Services and Adult Protective Services to attend one of the remaining meetings
- Next meeting May 10, 2023

Motion to adjourn:

The next SAC meeting will be held on March 8, 2023 at 12:30 pm – 3:00 pm

- **Motioned to adjourn** – Al Thibodeaux accepted the motion to adjourn
- Kathy Dwyer – Second the motion to adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 3:05 PM