

Prioritization and Wait List

Multi-State Process Review

Division of Developmental Disabilities Workgroup: February 19, 2016

Topics of Review

- **Eligibility Determination**
- **Prioritization of Need/Needs Assessment**
- **Waiting List Process**
- **Transition Planning**
- **Waivers**

NEBRASKA

NEBRASKA ELIGIBILITY

- Eligibility determined based on NE State Statute 83-1205
- Once a Notice of Decision is sent stating that the individual is eligible staff reach out to notify the individual about the Registry.
- Service Coordination is available to all DD eligible individuals to assist in finding additional resources while they wait for DD funding.

NEBRASKA PRIORITIZATION OF NEED/NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- Service Needs Assessment (SNA) done upon request for individuals who feel that they are underserved and their level of need should get them funding or additional funding.
- Inventory of Client and Agency Planning (ICAP) is an assessment completed to determine the level of need and budget at the point when someone is about to receive funding/services

NEBRASKA WAITING LIST PROCESS

- When someone is found to have a Developmental Disability they can choose to go on the waiting list, which is called the Registry of Unmet Needs, for services they are not entitled to.
- The wait for non-entitled services is based on the date that they are requested, called a Date of Need. When funding becomes available it goes to the individuals who have been waiting past their Date of Need for the longest time.

NEBRASKA WAITING LIST PROCESS, CONT.

- If the eligible individual meets the criteria for an entitlement to Day services they will have access immediately after they are determined eligible, if they choose.
- If they are not entitled to Day services or want them in the future they are added to the Registry.
- If they are not yet 21 they are documented as getting services at the end of the school year following their 21st birthday.

NEBRASKA TRANSITION PLANNING

- Eligible individuals who have graduated from a Nebraska High school after September 9, 1993 are entitled to receive day services at the end of the school year following their 21st birthday.
- Starting at 18 schools should encourage individuals to go through the eligibility process and get a service coordinator.

NEBRASKA WAIVERS

- Adult Comprehensive Waiver: in and out of home services for eligible individuals age 21+
- Adult Day Waiver: Out of home services only for individuals age 21+
- Children's Residential Services: Residential only services for children under age 21

PENNSYLVANIA

PENNSYLVANIA ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION

- Diagnosis of an intellectual disability is made by using the IQ score, adaptive functioning scores, and clinical judgment when necessary.
- In cases where individuals display widely disparate skills or achieve an IQ score close to 70, clinical judgment should be exercised to determine eligibility for Intellectual Disability services.
- Once found eligible, a Supports Coordinator is assigned to assist in applying for ID services and completes assessments to determine the priority of the need for services

PENNSYLVANIA PRIORITIZATION OF NEED/NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services (PUNS) assessment
 - If eligible for services but there is not funding immediately available a PUNS assessment is completed with a Supports Coordinator.
 - PUNS is assessment tool that shows what they need and when, whether emergency (now), critical (within 2 years), or planning (more than 2 years, less than 5 years out).
 - Also reviews their current supports and gathers the dates that they will need future services.
 - Re-assessed annually

PENNSYLVANIA WAITING LIST PROCESS

- Based on a PUNS assessment, placed on a waiting list until funds are available based on their priority of need.
- Even if found to be in the “Emergency” or “Critical” categories of the waiting list there may not be immediate funding available and so a wait is required.

PENNSYLVANIA TRANSITION PLANNING

- Transition planning is required for all students with disabilities, beginning at age 14, who qualify for Special Education Services.
- The planning process should include a coordinated effort between the school, the student, the family and any adult system (such as Developmental Disability services) that may be accessed for ongoing support when the student graduates or leaves school.
- There is no entitlement to services by being found eligible for them.

PENNSYLVANIA WAIVERS

- Consolidated Waiver: designed to help individuals age 3+ with an intellectual disability live more independently in their homes and communities and to provide a variety of services that promote community living, including self-directed service models and traditional, agency-based service models.
- Person/Family Directed Support Waiver: designed to help individuals age 3+ with an intellectual disability live more independently in their homes and communities and to provide a variety of services that promote community living, including self-directed service models and traditional, agency-based service models. This waiver is different from the Consolidated Waiver because it does not provide Residential services.

CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION

- In order to be eligible for supports or services from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), a person must:
 - Be a resident of the State of Connecticut and
 - Have an intellectual disability as defined in Connecticut General Statutes Section 1-1g
- OR
- Have a medical diagnosis of Prader-Willi Syndrome (PWS), which is a neurobehavioral genetic disorder that must be diagnosed by a physician.

CONNECTICUT ELIGIBILITY, CONT.

- When you first become eligible for DDS services, the region in which you live will be notified so that a case manager can begin working with you and your family.
- Eligibility for services does not assure that requests for services can be met immediately. Services of the Department of Developmental Services are provided on a priority basis and within available appropriations.

CONNECTICUT PRIORITIZATION OF NEED/NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- Once you have a case manager, you can begin to plan for the services you want and need. Your case manager will meet with you to assess your Level of Need, listen to what you need to support your life in the community and develop a plan.
- The Level of Need Assessment is completed to go over the exact service needs of the individual, does not guarantee these needed services.

CONNECTICUT PRIORITIZATION OF NEED/NEEDS ASSESSMENT, CONT.

- If Residential services are being requested, a priority checklist for residential services will be filled out to accompany the service request. It goes over:
 - How long a period of time before they want services to start
 - Age of caregiver
 - Health of the individual and their caregiver
 - Grade given from the Level of Need assessment
 - How many in the household need support
 - Available in home support, access to other DDS supports, access to natural supports or community/school supports.
- Each answer is scored, and a potential emergency without any immediate assistance is noted.

CONNECTICUT WAITING LIST PROCESS

- There is no entitlement or guarantee for services provided by the department, so initially you will receive case management services and will have access to some family support services, including respite. You may need to wait for additional services or supports.
- There is a separate day services waiting list.

CONNECTICUT WAITING LIST PROCESS, CONT.

- If residential needed Residential Priority Checklist completed; once this is reviewed you are informed of what priority you are at and about how long it will be before you can expect services, place on either a “waiting list” or “planning list”
 - Waiting List - priority of needed services within one year
 - Planning list: for those who will need residential support within 2-5 years

CONNECTICUT TRANSITION PLANNING

- If you started the eligibility process at 16 in high school you should transition directly to services, if you did not you will be placed on a list to wait for day services
- In order to ensure a smooth and successful transition, the student's DDS case manager must have a clear understanding of their needs prior to graduation.
- Unlike the school years that are mandated by law, services and supports available through DDS are not mandated.

CONNECTICUT WAIVERS

- Individual and Family Support waiver, to provide in-home, day, vocational, and family support services for people who live in their own or family home.
- Comprehensive Waiver for services delivered in licensed settings and vocational and in-home services for people who need a more intensive level of support to remain in their own or family home. Vocational and day supports for school graduates are funded through DDS's HCBS waivers.

MARYLAND

MARYLAND ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION

- A developmental disability is a physical or mental impairment, but not just mental illness, or it can be a combination of mental and physical impairments.
 - It will probably continue forever
 - It started before you turned 22
 - You need supports or assistance to live independently
 - You need the support of a team to help with your services and treatment

MARYLAND ELIGIBILITY, CONT.

- Part of the application process is applying specifically for what services will be wanted, including but not limited to: Behavioral Support, Day, Employment, Residential, and Respite Care. If found eligible you will be found eligible for specific services.
- When found eligible your notification of eligibility also includes information on which priority category you have been found eligible for.

MARYLAND PRIORITIZATION OF NEED/NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- The assessment of needs is completed during the eligibility application process. Category that will determine your priority for services, they are: Crisis Resolution, Crisis Prevention, and Current Request. The eligible person can apply for a change of priority status at any time.

MARYLAND WAITING LIST PROCESS

- There is a Waiting List and a Registry
- The DDA Waiting List is comprised of people who are requesting services within the next three years, they are placed into one of three categories.
 - First served are people in the Crisis Resolution category
 - Second are people in the Crisis Prevention category
 - Third are people in the Current Request category.
- Placement in a priority group does not guarantee funding will be available.

MARYLAND WAITING LIST PROCESS, CONT.

- People who anticipate not needing services for more than three years will be placed on the Registry; The Registry is a list of people (adults and children) who are not currently seeking DDA-funded services and anticipate a need for a DDA funded services in more than three years and want to be known to DDA.

MARYLAND TRANSITION PLANNING

- There are no entitled services for when individuals leave the public school system or separate wait for these services. They must have already applied for these services in the past if they would like them when they finish school, age 14 is recommended for eligibility application
- MD also has a Division of Rehabilitation Services, which provides vocational rehabilitation to those with significant disabilities. They work closely with schools so that kids who will be graduating and are interested in employment, eligibility process begins in the second to last year of public school.

MARYLAND WAIVERS

- Community Pathways Waiver is the only waiver available, and is currently undergoing amendments with CMS
- This waiver covers but is not limited to:
 - Residential services, supported employment, behavioral supports, medical day care, respite, transportation, and assistive technology.

ILLINOIS

ILLINOIS ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION

- Applying for eligibility is asking to be on the Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services (PUNS) database. To apply to be in this database of individuals who want services you will have to meet with a Pre-Admission Screening (PAS)/Independent Service Coordination Agency (ISC) to see if you are eligible for services. To be eligible to be on the PUNS database you must have an Intellectual Disability or related condition.

ILLINOIS PRIORITIZATION OF NEED/NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- As a part of the eligibility process, those that are shown to have developmental disability also have a PUNS form completed to put your need for services into one of these categories
 - Emergency - You need immediate services;
 - Critical - You will need services within 1 year;
 - Planning - You will need services in 1 to 5 years
- You will not have to wait on the PUNS database if it is shown that you need active treatment, or fit crisis criteria.
- Once a PUNS assessment is done, service coordination makes annual contact to see if reassessment is needed

ILLINOIS WAITING LIST PROCESS

- PUNS is a statewide database that records information about individuals with developmental disabilities who are potentially in need of services now or within the next five-years. You are not allowed to apply to be in the PUNS database if you are interested in services in more than five years. The State uses the data for three main purposes:
 - (1) to select individuals for services as funding becomes available,
 - (2) to develop proposals and materials for the State's annual budgeting process, and
 - (3) to plan for future needs.
- When your PUNS survey is done, you are on the waiting list. This doesn't mean that you will immediately get the services you need.

ILLINOIS TRANSITION PLANNING

- Illinois requires that transition planning begins in the IEP during the school year that the child turns 14 ½, and by the age of 18 apply for the PUNS database for adult services for post-graduation planning.

ILLINOIS WAIVERS

- **Adult's Waiver:** designed to prevent or delay out of home residential services or it is an alternative to ICF level of care.
 - **Home-Based Support Services:** services provided by domestic employees, has a monthly cost maximum
 - **Residential Services:** services provided by licensed provider.
- **Children's In-Home Support Waiver:** to prevent out of home residential care
- **Children's Residential Waiver:** out of home residential care

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OTHER STATES

INDIANA: COMMUNITY INTEGRATION AND HABILITATION WAIVER (CIHW)

- CIHW is emergency based for individuals who meet the following criteria:
 - Eligible individuals transitioning to the community from nursing facilities, extensive support needs home, and state operated facilities;
 - Eligible individuals determined to no longer need/receive active treatment in supervised group living;
 - Eligible individuals transitioning from 100% state funded services;
 - Eligible individuals aging out of Department of Education, Department of Child Services, or supervised group living;
 - Eligible individuals requesting to leave a Large Private Intermediate Care Facility for the Intellectually/Developmentally Disabled;
 - Death of a Primary Caregiver where there is no other caregiver available;
 - Caregiver over 80 years of age where there is no other caregiver available;
 - Evidence of abuse or neglect in the current institutional or supported group living placement; or
 - Extraordinary health and safety risk as reviewed and approved by the Division Director.

INDIANA: FAMILY SUPPORTS WAIVER (FSW)

- The FSW is the only waiver in IN with a waiting list.
- The Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services District Offices can provide an application for the Family Supports Waiver (FSW) when found eligible as well as assist in researching additional services.
- Once it has been determined that an individual meets the criteria for a developmental disability, that individual will be placed on the FSW waiting lists.
- Once a waiver slot becomes available the individual will be offered a waiver placement

MASSACHUSETTS: CHAPTER 688 OR “TURNING 22 LAW”

- Day services are not an entitlement to those that finish special education in the public school system
- This law creates a point of entry into the adult human service system
- Establishes a planning process which identifies services or supports which may be needed when special education ends.
- To qualify, it needs to be shown while still in special education that they will need continuing services and not be able to work competitively (without supports) more than 20 hours per week.

MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER 688, CONT.

- Application process is started by the public school system, at least 2 years before the end of the schooling or 22nd birthday, whichever is first, suggested at age 18. Less than 2 years, services cannot be guaranteed at 22/graduation.
- Individuals will not qualify for 688 if they do not make referral before they leave school.
- A transition plan is created that shows what type of supports will be needed, where, interests, skills, does not include goals or identify specific providers (these services are not guaranteed, subject to prioritization and availability);

MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER 688, CONT

- Age 16 - 18 Refinement of the vision and identification of transition needs in the Transition Planning Form at the IEP. Assessment of interests, aptitudes and abilities, community based learning opportunities, work, and home based learning opportunities. Gather information about Social Security (SSI) and MassHealth
- Age 18 Age of Majority - under Massachusetts State law, students become responsible for making decisions about their own medical and education programs and services, unless a court appointed guardian is in place. If appropriate, students or guardians should apply for SSI. Eligibility for DDS adult services can be determined at age 18 and DDS eligibility application should be made at this time.
- Age 18-20: Continued refinement of the vision for the future and more directed educational team planning towards that goal. School system makes the 688 referral. DDS Area Office assigns a Transition Coordinator.
- Age 20 - 21: DDS as the Transitional Agency, completes an Individual Transitional Plan (ITP) outlining needed services and supports and also identifying the state agency responsible for them. Continuation of community and work based learning opportunities as identified in IEP and ITP. DDS Transition coordinator continues as the primary DDS contact for the individual, family and school system.

STATE WEBSITES

- Nebraska: http://dhhs.ne.gov/developmental_disabilities/Pages/developmental_disabilities_index.aspx
- Pennsylvania: <http://www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/intellectualdisabilitiesservices/index.htm#.VrUE-2UUVaQ>
- Massachusetts: <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dds/>
- Connecticut: <http://www.ct.gov/dds/site/default.asp>
- Maryland: <http://dda.dhmh.maryland.gov/Pages/home.aspx>
- Illinois: <http://www.illinois.gov/dd/Pages/default.aspx> ,
<http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=29761>
- Indiana: <http://www.in.gov/fssa/2328.htm>