



DIRECT CONNECTION

*Current news from the Missouri Division of
Developmental Disabilities to keep you informed*

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MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Direct Connection

In the interest of providing a continuous flow of “news you can use,” the Division will be publishing **Direct Connection** on a monthly basis to be sent out by email notification to all community providers. You may subscribe to the email notification by going to <http://www.dmh.mo.gov/mrdd/emailnotification.htm>. We hope you enjoy this first issue!!

DD Home Ownership Initiative

Five contractors will assist up to 20 individuals or families to purchase their own homes. The contractors will provide support broker services to guide and assist the prospective buyers to negotiate all the steps toward becoming a home owner beginning with making a plan to purchase a home to closing on a purchase. Assistance will be provided to access financial counseling, to explore financing options, to make application for a home mortgage, to locate a home, and ultimately to close on a property. Contractors are the Coalition for Independence in Kansas City, On My Own in Nevada, The Center for Human Services in Sedalia, The Northeast Missouri Action Corporation in Bowling Green, and 4 Sight Counseling in Cape Girardeau.

Case Management

Targeted case management services have expanded from seventeen counties serving 4,000 individuals to forty counties serving over 10,000 individuals. This local option and partnership with SB40 boards and others continues to evolve.

IN FULL SWING

Supports Intensity Scale (SIS)

The SIS is a standardized assessment tool, specifically designed to directly measure the pattern and intensity of supports an individual 16 years of age or over with developmental disabilities needs to be successful. The SIS is not a diagnostic test; it is a planning tool. That is, the SIS is intended to be used to inform planning teams regarding individual support needs to assist individuals to achieve the goals/outcomes in the individual’s person-centered

plan. In addition, the SIS can be used at the agency level to drive and support staff training, organizational strategic planning, and evaluation; and at the systems level, it can be used for resource allocation, rate setting, research/evaluation, and systems planning (i.e., budget requests, training and technical assistance, etc.).

The SIS is comprehensive and comprised of three sections to measure the pattern and intensity of supports in 6 Life Activity Domains, in protection and advocacy activities, and in 16 exceptional medical conditions and 13 challenging behaviors.

The SIS is administered via a semi-structured interview with the individual and preferably two or more respondents who know the individual well. The respondents should be individuals who have known the person for at least 3 months and have observed the person in one or more environments for substantial periods of time (i.e., parent, family members, direct support professional, service coordinator, friend, and teacher).

As of January 20, 2010, there have been nearly 7,400 SIS interviews conducted statewide. Many thanks to all who have participated and also for your support.

Prevention Waiver

The newly proposed Prevention Waiver, a partnership between the Division and 36 SB40 County Boards, has been informally submitted to the Regional Office of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid for review. The target date for implementation is July, 2010. Nearly 230+ new consumers will be served locally through this joint initiative. Persons whose service needs can be served with a cost cap of \$12,000 are targeted in the new waiver. This will allow the Division and participating SB 40 boards to attack the waiting list to help prevent out of home placement for many individuals in the future.

IN DEVELOPMENT

Budget and Funding Issues

Missouri, like other states, is experiencing revenue shortfalls. State Budget Director Linda Luebbering announced that 2010 fiscal year-to-date net general revenue collections declined 10.6 percent compared to fiscal year 2009, from \$3.7 billion last year to \$3.3 billion this year. Net general revenue collections for December 2009 decreased by 21.7 percent compared to those for December 2008, from \$785.6 million to \$615.2 million. The Division is receiving input from individuals and families, provider organizations, and other interested parties about suggestions for spending priorities for the upcoming fiscal years.

BRIGHT IDEAS

Elks Mobile Dental Program

When the Department of Health and Senior Services was faced with the difficult decision to terminate a contract with the Elks Mobile Dental Program due to funding limitations, this important program was continued for one more year by the Division of Developmental Disabilities using funds from the Systems Transformation grant. The Division is assisting the Elks Program to identify other funding sources to continue the program after September, 2010.

Services and Supports

The Division, in cooperation with over 900 licensed, certified, or accredited community partners, provides supports and services to 29,688 consumers statewide.

Missouri College of Direct Support

As of December, 2009, the MoCDS training program had 2,941 enrollees taking 104,645 training lessons. Additionally, 467 individuals have received either the Basic or Advanced MoCDS training certificates. More encouraging is the fact that reported turnover in direct support positions by the 29 agencies utilizing the curriculum has reduced from a high of 49% in 2007, to 23% as of December, 2009. Graduates report that after training they are better prepared to provide needed supports to their consumers. They also report that they plan to stay in the field of Developmental Disabilities longer than they had previously expected to prior to the MoCDS training.

Missouri Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders

The Missouri Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders is meeting quarterly at the central office of the Department of Mental Health, 1706 East Elm Street, in Jefferson City. The next meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2010, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in conference rooms A and B. The Commission is actively engaged in developing recommendations for a comprehensive, statewide plan for an integrated system of training, treatment and services for people who have Autism Spectrum Disorders across the lifespan.