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| *Ligas* Implementation Plan  2015 Revisions |
| State of Illinois |
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| **Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities** |
| **6/5/15** |

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| This Implementation Plan has been developed by the Division of Developmental Disabilities, with input from the Plaintiffs, Intervenors, and Monitor to accomplish the obligations and objectives set forth in the *Ligas v. Hamos* Consent Decree. (Case: 1:05-cv-04331 Document #: 549) |

**LIGAS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

**2015 Revisions**

**DRAFT June 5, 2015**

## Section I. Executive Summary

## Background of Litigation and Overview of Consent Decree

On June 15, 2011, the State entered into a Consent Decree settling the *Ligas v. Hamos* lawsuit, filed on July 28, 2005 on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities who were residing in private, State-funded facilities (Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with Developmental Disabilities or ICFs/DD) of nine or more persons or who were at risk of being placed in such facilities. Plaintiffs sought placement in Community-Based Settings[[1]](#endnote-2) and receipt of Community-Based Services. The Consent Decree, which is available on the Division of Developmental Disabilities’ (DDD) website,[[2]](#endnote-3) identifies two groups of Class Members:

* Adult individuals in Illinois with developmental disabilities who qualify for Medicaid Waiver services, who reside in ICFs/DD with nine or more residents, and who affirmatively request to receive Community-Based Services or placement in a Community-Based Setting.
* Adult individuals in Illinois with developmental disabilities who qualify for Medicaid Waiver services, who reside in a Family Home, who are in need of Community-Based Services or placement in a Community-Based Setting, and who affirmatively request Community-Based Services or placement in a Community-Based Setting.

The Decree does not force individuals who do not want Community-Based Services or placement to move. Nor does it force providers to close beds or enter into downsizing agreements with the State against their will.

The tenets of the Decree will assist the DDD in expanding its community-based system to meet the growing demand for those services, while continuing to honor an individual's choice in deciding on the types of services and settings he or she prefers in order to live a personally fulfilling and productive life. The Decree includes the following provisions:

### Services for Individuals Currently Residing in ICFs/DD

Within six years of approval of the Decree, all individuals living in ICFs/DD as of the effective date of the Decree who have affirmatively requested Community-Based Settings will move to Community-Based Settings. Placements must be implemented for one-third of all such individuals every two years of this six-year period. For those individuals who wish to continue living in an ICF/DD, the Decree requires the State to honor that choice and to continue to provide adequate funding to meet the needs of such individuals.

* Services for Individuals Currently Residing in the Family Home

The DDD will continue to expeditiously serve all people who meet the established crisis criteria. There will be no limit to the number of people served who meet the crisis criteria.

The DDD will serve 3000 individuals on the Waiting List for Community-Based Services or placement in a Community-Based Setting, as defined in the Decree, over the next six years (1,000 within the first two years and 500 each year the next four years) with home-based support services or in community-based residential settings. After the end of the six year period, all Class members on the Waiting List shall move off the Waiting List at a reasonable pace.

### Other General Provisions

* Evaluations and Transition Service Plans will focus on individual desires and goals and will not be limited by existing services. All services and supports in the Transition Service Plan must be integrated into the community to the maximum extent appropriate and consistent with the choices of the class member and his or her legal guardian. The State, however, will not be required to develop or offer services that are not part of the approved Waiver or Medicaid State Plan.
* The Department of Human Services (DHS) will seek sufficient funds in annual budget requests to develop and maintain the services described in the Decree. Implementation of the Decree is not, however, dependent on legislative appropriation of new funds.
* A monitor has been appointed by the Court to oversee compliance with the Decree and report on progress to the Court on an annual basis. After nine years of the approval of the Decree, the State may petition the Court to terminate the monitoring process.

The Implementation Plan

This document sets forth the State’s plans to implement the provisions of the Consent Decree. It is being developed consistent with Paragraph 26 of the Consent Decree and has incorporated input received from the Plaintiffs, Intervenors, and other advocates throughout the system.

References to paragraph numbers in each of the sections below refer to paragraphs within the Consent Decree from which language is excerpted. For full context, readers should refer to the Consent Decree. Should any language in the Implementation Plan unintentionally conflict with that of the Consent Decree, the Consent Decree governs.

Section II, Development and Maintenance of the Class Member List, describes the compilation of an initial list of class members and the DDD’s further development and maintenance of that list. These efforts will be on-going as additional individuals request to be added to or removed from Class Membership as a result of outreach activity.

Section III, Outreach, provides information regarding the DDD’s efforts to identify individuals in need of residential or in-home supports, as well as those Potential Class Members who wish to move from ICFs/DD. It is the intention of the DDD to partner with the Plaintiffs and other advocates to ensure individuals and their guardians are given accurate and complete information about their options.

Section IV, Development of Community Capacity, discusses the need to expand and develop new service capacity to meet the requirements of the Decree for Class Members seeking services. The DDD intends to work with both existing providers and recruit new providers to fill the growth in service delivery.

Section V, Community-Based Services/Placement for Individuals Residing in ICFs/DD, addresses the opportunity for Class Members residing in ICFs/DD to move to community-based services. At 2 ½, 4 ½, and 6 years from the approval of the Consent Decree (June 15, 2011), the DDD will have implemented services to one-third of these Class Members. Monitoring activities will be underway to achieve the goal of successful transitions.

Section VI, Transition Planning, outlines a plan and time frame for implementing the use of Transition Service Plans for Class Members. This new process will present a system change for the entire service delivery system. The Transition Service Plans will be developed prior to the selection of service providers to describe the services a Class Member needs. The goal of this process is to ensure service delivery focused on and tailored to the individual.

Section VII, Waiting List for Community Services and Placement, details the process for Class Members living at home to be selected for the 3,000 new community capacities. Individuals will be selected each year from the DDD’s waiting list.

Section VIII, Community Crises, confirms the DDD will continue its current practices in serving individuals in crisis situations. These services will be above the 3,000 capacities being developed for Class Members residing at home.

Section IX, Appeal Process, refers to the right to appeal any denial, suspension, termination, or reduction of services, as well as the process for informing Class Members of this right.

Section X, Resources Necessary for Implementation, outlines additional resources required by the DDD to implement the provisions of the Consent Decree. These resources include contractual services for administrative functions, additional staff, and direct services for Class Members. Also discussed in this section is the budget development to both maintain existing services and implement the new provisions of the Decree.

Section XI, Interagency Agreements, lists the two agreements currently in place among State governmental entities to secure matching Medicaid funds for developmental disabilities services. It is believed these agreements are sufficient to implement the provisions of the Decree.

Section XII, Process for Plan Reporting and Modification, provides for the annual review and update of this Implementation Plan. Reports will be produced every six months by the DDD containing data and information regarding compliance activities.

Section XIII, Acronyms, lists the acronyms used in this document.

**Section II. Development and Maintenance of the Class Member List**

*Paragraph 6. Within thirty (30) days after Approval of the Decree, Defendants shall compile an initial list of Class Members by taking the list of Individuals to whom notice of Preliminary Approval of this Decree was sent, adding those Individuals from whom any of the Parties received a written, affirmative request to receive Community-Based Services or placement in a Community-Based Setting after notice of Preliminary Approval of this Decree was sent, but excluding (i) those individuals who filed objections to the Proposed Consent Decree that was the subject of the July 1, 2009 Fairness Hearing as described in Paragraph 3(i) above, and (ii) those Individuals from whom Defendants receive written requests that the Individuals do not wish to receive Community-Based Services or placement in a Community-Based Setting.*

*Paragraph 8. Defendants shall maintain a statewide database in which all Class Members are enrolled.*

Consistent with Paragraph 6 of the Consent Decree, the Attorney General’s Office provided to the Monitor and Plaintiffs on July 15, 2011, an initial list of Class Members. Intervenors were also given a copy of the initial list. The list includes:

* Adults (age 18 and above) enrolled in the State’s Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services (PUNS) database as of June 15, 2011, who were not already living in a 24-hour Community-Based Setting or State-Operated Developmental Center (SODC); and
* Individuals who had submitted written requests to be included in the Class to the Attorney General’s Office;
* But not those excluded from the class, as set out immediately below and in Paragraph 6 of the Decree.

The Parties have agreed that, for those individuals who live in ICF/DD settings, they are a Class Member if they have completed an Illinois Form 1238[[3]](#endnote-4) or its predecessor, DMHDD Form 1243; or the DDPAS-10 Form[[4]](#endnote-5); or the Request Form disseminated through Plaintiffs’ counsel; and checked the box indicating he or she chooses Home and Community-Based Services. An individual will not be a Class Member if he or she completed one of the above forms and checked the box choosing services in an ICF/DD or if he or she otherwise objected to the terms of the Consent Decree at the Court’s fairness hearing or objected otherwise in writing per Paragraph 6 of the Decree, unless a subsequent communication to DDD requests Community-Based Services or placement in a Community-Based Setting.

DDD, with the assistance of the Monitor, has completed a review of the initial list to ensure it includes only individuals for whom the State has a current record affirmatively requesting Community-Based Services or Settings. This review included a comparison of the initial list to the list of objectors to the Consent Decree.

This initial list of Class Members was also compared with the State’s PUNS database of individuals waiting for services and the following action has been taken:

* The records for Class Members are marked as a *Ligas* Class Member, along with the date the person was added to the Class Member listing. Records for those in the initial list show this date as June 15, 2011. The record also reflects whether the Class Member was living in the Family Home, an ICF/DD on June 15, 2011, or an ICF/DD after June 15, 2011.
* PAS/ISC agencies have completed PUNS enrollment for all individuals included in the initial listing who were not previously enrolled. The State continues to add individuals to the class list as they request Community-Based Services or placement through the normal PUNS process, per the existing PUNS manual.[[5]](#endnote-6) It will also add those individuals who inform the State they choose to move from ICFs/DD through the completion of Form 1238, Choice of Supports and Services, or the DDPAS-10 Form. Efforts to identify additional Class Members are discussed in the Outreach section of this plan.
* If a person requests to be removed from the class at any point during the time of the Consent Decree, their record will be so marked, along with the date and reason. Reasons for leaving the class include:
  + Individual chose to stay in ICF/DD
  + Individual chose to move to ICF/DD
  + Individual is deceased
  + Individual moved out of State
  + Individual was determined by DDD to be ineligible for the Medicaid Waiver
  + Individual withdrew from the class without giving a reason
  + Other

Thus, the individual’s record will be marked as “removed” but the record itself will not be deleted. Prior to marking an individual’s record as “removed”, the DDD will ensure the individual was informed of his or her rights as a Class Member by a PAS/ISC agency or an independent contractor. For people found to be ineligible, the DDD will refer these individuals to the appropriate state agency in which they may be eligible (*e.g.* the Division of Mental Health or the Division of Rehabilitation Services). For people found to be ineligible, if such individuals are later found eligible (as a result of an appeal or otherwise), those individuals will be added back to the class as described in the above process.

The State will continue to use its PUNS database to maintain the list of Class Members. Each Class Member will have a PUNS enrollment and his or her record will be marked with the data elements described above.

The DDD will maintain the class list. The Monitor and Class Counsel will have access to the class list, including contact information, on an on-going basis. The DDD also will provide to Intervenors’ Counsel the class list that DDD will use to compare with the listing of all ICF/DD residents to determine which ICF/DD residents will be contacted by the Outreach contractors as provided in Section III of this Implementation Plan, subject to Intervenors’ Counsel’s agreement to: (1) maintain the list as “attorneys’ eyes only”; (2) not disseminate any name on the list beyond Intervenors’ Counsel; and (3) not contact any individual on the list, the individuals’ guardians or the ICFs/DD in which those individuals reside. The DDD will produce for the Monitor, Class Counsel, and Intervenors’ Counsel semi-annual summary reports of additions to and removals from the list.

As part of the annual reviews of the Implementation Plan (see Section XII), the DDD will review the adequacy of the PUNS database in capturing the information needed for implementation of the Decree.

A fall 2014 analysis of the 22,693 then-active PUNS records indicated that 11,070, or 48.78%, are more than one-year old. 4,703, or 20.72% are three or more years out of date; 2,480, or 10.93%, are five or more years out of date. It is the State’s goal that all PUNS records be current within one year.

The DDD is conducting a special initiative, the PUNS Integrity Project, to ensure information and data on individuals enrolled is accurate, complete, and current. DDD anticipates this project will cover a period of fourteen months from May 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016, but it is subject to the development of the FY16 budget. Funds are being disbursed to provide the 18 independent service coordination agencies that process enrollments and updates with additional resources to work with individuals and families to bring records up to date.

Allocations for each of the 18 agencies have been determined according to each agency’s estimated percent of the population of Illinois. For the total project, the funding is:

11,070 overdue records x $120.03 (3 hours at the hourly ISC rate of $40.01) = $1,328,732.10.

The funds are being disbursed as grant payments in four portions:

* 1/7th, or two of the 14 month’s worth of the funds were released in May of 2015,
* During the first quarter of FY16, each agency will receive additional funds to bring them to 50% of their total allocation for the project so the agencies can secure the needed ISC time to begin the updates,
* Another 25% will be disbursed in the third quarter of FY16 when an agency reaches and maintains 75% compliance with the annual update requirements, and
* The remaining 25% will be disbursed in the fourth quarter of FY16 when an agency reaches and maintains 95% compliance with the annual update requirements.

**Section III. Outreach**

*Paragraph 25. Defendants shall maintain a fair and accessible process by which Individuals with Developmental Disabilities or their legal guardians can affirmatively request in writing to receive Community-Based Services and/or placement in a Community-Based Setting or to receive ICF-MR services in an ICF-DD, and Defendants shall maintain up-to-date records of those requests.*

The DDD’s outreach efforts will be directed to:

* identifying individuals with developmental disabilities throughout the State who are or will be in need of residential or in-home supports funded through DDD Medicaid services; and
* Identifying individuals residing in ICFs/DD on or before June 15, 2011, who may choose to transition to Community-Based Settings and services. Objectors to the Consent Decree will not be contacted. The DDD will work in conjunction with Class Counsel to coordinate efforts on outreach.

Community Outreach

DDD will use the existing PUNS database, enrollment form, and manual as tools to identify, record, and track information regarding individuals newly identified as in need of services. The DDD will continue to complete PUNS enrollments through contracted entities. There are currently 18 local PAS/ISC agencies with contracts through the DDD for PUNS enrollments.

Outreach efforts include:

* Training of PAS/ISC agencies on the requirements of the Consent Decree and the provisions of the Implementation Plan;
* Development and maintenance of special brochures, flyers, and posters, which can be downloaded from the DDD website;[[6]](#endnote-7)
* Coordination with trade associations, local schools, special recreation associations, and other advocacy organizations to publicize the Ligas Consent Decree and PUNS;
* Distribution of information regarding PUNS and *Ligas* to Medicaid-enrolled health care providers via the State Medicaid agency’s list serve;
* Distribution of materials at special events such as conferences, seminars, etc.;
* Inclusion of culturally appropriate materials, alternative means of communication, and easily understandable language in efforts to publicize the Ligas Consent Decree and PUNS, including targeting communities identified as under-reported;
* Maintenance of the PAS/ISC office locator function on the DDD website; and
* Maintenance of the 1-888-DDPLANS toll free number to connect families with their local PAS/ISC office.

DDD, with the assistance of the Monitor, provided initial training to the PAS/ISC agencies on the Ligas Consent Decree and their role in its implementation. Since that time, DDD and the Monitor have provided informational and training sessions through phone conferences (as was the case with information about the Outreach vendor) or through face-to-face meetings (as was the case with the implementation of the Ligas Transition Service Plan).

DDD and the Monitor have continuously provided information sessions about the Ligas Consent Decree around the State during conferences and other meetings of the major trade and advocacy organizations within the developmental disabilities system. These sessions have included self-advocates, family members, providers, special education teachers, ombudsmen, and Office of State Guardian employees.

Materials on the current DDD website include an overview of the Consent Decree, the six month data reports, the Monitor’s annual reports, information about Class Members’ rights, information about Class Member eligibility, and other materials, including the Consent Decree itself. With the assistance of the Monitor and in coordination with the PAS/ISC agencies, DDD developed information on the DDD website which can be used by the PAS/ISC agencies and other organizations that specifically address class membership and the rights of class members.

DDD continues to maintain the PAS/ISC office locator function and the toll free number.

Outreach to Persons in ICFs/DD

In addition to the efforts to inform and identify individuals throughout the population as a whole, the DDD will focus outreach efforts to identify Potential Class Members residing in ICFs/DD. (Potential Class Members residing in ICFs/DD are those ICF/DD residents who (1) are not Class Members and (2) did not exclude themselves from the class by having objected to the Decree prior to its approval or by submitting a written request to be excluded prior to compilation of the initial class list per Paragraph 6 of the Decree.) The DDD has secured the services of a contractor to contact all Potential Class Members residing in ICFs/DD. The contractor selected is independent of direct service and service coordination for persons with developmental disabilities in Illinois. An electronic copy of the contract was provided to the Monitor, Parties, and Intervenors.

The DDD issued notice to the ICFs/DD that the contracted entity will be working in the facilities for the next two to three years. The DDD required the ICFs/DD providers to confirm the list of individuals residing in their facilities and to provide the DDD with the addresses and phone numbers for all guardians. The DDD then compared the listing of all ICF/DD residents to the list of known Class Members and the list of those individuals who excluded themselves from the class by objecting or submitting a written request per Paragraph 6 of the Decree. Once that comparison was finished, the DDD provided the contractor with a list of ICFs/DD and Potential Class Members.

At the direction of the DDD, the contractor began its work in two geographic areas: St. Clair and Madison Counties, and the South and Southwest Suburbs of Cook County. These areas were chosen because they were the areas in which the Ligas Transition Service Plan was piloted. Thus, the PAS/ISC agencies in the area were further along in experience with that process.

Once the contractor begins work in a geographic area, having received an updated list of Potential Class Members in the area as described above, the contractor will then call the guardian and ask if the guardian is willing to meet to discuss having the Potential Class Member move to a community-based setting and, if so, inform them that the Potential Class Member’s records will be reviewed as part of the next steps. Thereafter, the ICFs/DD will provide the contractor(s) with full access to records only for those individuals who indicate they wish to consider moving, and, upon reasonable notice (i.e., at least seven calendar days), provide the contractor(s) with full access to and private meeting space with Potential Class Members at times and in a manner that are convenient for the Potential Class Members and their guardians and do not unreasonably interfere with the operations of the facility. [For those individuals without guardians, the first contact will be through record reviews and face-to-face meetings.] The DDD will inform ICF/DD administrators that they and facility staff cannot interfere with the outreach process or seek to intimidate, persuade, or otherwise influence residents to stay in their facilities. No individual or their guardian will be required to meet with the contractor(s) if they choose not to do so.

DDD, with the participation of the Monitor, developed written guidelines and provided training for the contractor Such guidelines and training is to ensure the contractor) provides complete and objective information regarding all alternative choices for long-term care services for Potential Class Members and do not attempt to steer Potential Class Members toward any particular service alternative. The goal is to enable the individual and his or her guardian, if applicable, to choose the service alternative that they feel best meets their needs.

Where Potential Class Members have indicated that they wish to consider moving to a Community-Based Setting, the contractor will meet with those individuals, and their guardians and family members, to inform the individuals of their rights under the Consent Decree and to provide them with complete and objective information regarding all alternative choices for long-term care services. As part of the information regarding alternative choices, prior to making choices about moving, the contractor will provide Potential Class Members the opportunity to visit community-based settings and to meet with people with disabilities and their families who already have transitioned to another setting. The contractor will document the date and time of the meeting with the individual, guardian, and/or family members and record on a form provided by the DDD the individual’s decision to remain in the ICF/DD or to consider moving to an alternative setting. The contractor will give copies of these completed forms to the DDD.

The contractor will inform the individual of his or her options through the PUNS intake form, complete the PUNS enrollment for those individuals who wish to receive community-based services, and report that information to the DDD using the Reporting of Community Services (ROCS) software.

If an individual indicates that he or she would like to consider moving to an alternative setting, whether that alternative setting be community-based services or another ICF/DD, the contractor will refer the individual to the appropriate PAS agency to work with the individual regarding his or her options. The PAS agency will facilitate visits to potential alternative settings to assist the individual and guardian in evaluating and/or selecting types of services and providers.

If a Potential Class Member chooses to move to a Community-Based Setting and that choice is documented in accordance with Paragraph 10 of the Consent Decree, the individual shall become a Class Member. If a Potential Class Member chooses to remain in his or her ICF/DD or move to another ICF/DD, the individual will not be a Class Member. However, Potential Class Members are not required to make a decision about whether to join the class during the initial outreach visit and can maintain their status as a Potential Class Member until they are ready to make a decision.

Much of the contractor(s) work should be completed by June 30, 2016, including initial meetings with individuals, guardians, and family members. In order to provide individuals’ guardians, and family members sufficient time to explore options and make decisions, outreach efforts will continue beyond that date.

General Information Sharing

In order to better inform individuals and family members, the DDD will expand and maintain the *Ligas* page on its website. It will develop materials for this page with input from the Monitor, Plaintiffs, and family representatives. It will also make presentations about the Consent Decree around the State at conferences, annual meetings, and other events hosted by other organizations and agencies. If there are an insufficient number of such events to enable DDD to educate the public about the Consent Decree, DDD will create and host its own events. The DDD will post a schedule on its website of all events in which it will present information about the Consent Decree.

*Ligas* Class Member/Family Advisory Committee (CMAC)

The Defendants, in conjunction with the Monitor and with input from the Parties, established and continue to support a *Ligas* Class Member/Family Advisory Committee (CMAC). This committee provides ongoing consultation and advice to the Defendants, Monitor and Parties regarding implementation of *Ligas* activities from the perspective of Class Members and their families. Members of the CMAC were selected by the Defendants with input from the Parties. The Defendants provide administrative support to the CMAC and, when necessary, reimburse approved costs associated with Class Member/family travel. Summaries of CMAC meetings and any written recommendations are provided to the Parties for review and comment. Meetings of the CMAC are open to the public.

**Section IV. Development of Community Capacity**

*Paragraph 4. The choices of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities, including Class Members, to receive Community-Based Services or placement in a Community-Based Setting or to receive ICF/MR services in an ICF-DD will be honored; provided, however, that this commitment to honoring choice does not alter Defendants’ current obligations under existing law regarding licensed ICF-DD capacity system-wide or at any specific ICF-DD, and provided that, under current applicable law, this commitment does not entitle an Individual with Developmental Disabilities to receive ICF/MR services in a specific ICF-DD. Defendants shall implement sufficient measures to ensure the availability of services, supports and other resources of sufficient quality, scope and variety to meet their obligations to such individuals under the Decree and the Implementation Plan consistent with such choices. While the Decree remains in effect, any amendment to the State Plan submitted by the State pursuant to 42 U.S.C.§ 1396, et seq. will continue to include ICF-DD services as an alternative choice for long-term care services for eligible Individuals with Developmental Disabilities. Nothing in this Decree shall impair Defendants’ ability to make changes in their provision of supports and services to Individuals with Developmental Disabilities, including Class Members, regardless of setting, provided that Defendants continue to honor Individuals’ choices and fulfill Defendants’ obligations under the Decree and Implementation Plan. Resources necessary to meet the needs of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities who choose to receive services in ICFs-DD shall be made available and such resources will not be affected by Defendants’ fulfillment of their obligations under the Decree, including the obligations under Paragraphs 17 through 19 and 21 through 23. Funding for services for each Individual with Developmental Disabilities will be based on the Individual’s needs using federally approved objective criteria regardless of whether the Individual chooses to receive services in an ICF-DD or in a Community-Based Setting; provided, however, nothing in this Decree shall require Defendants to change their current method for establishing funding or from adopting new methods based upon federally approved objective criteria.*

*Paragraph 5. Annual budgets submitted by Defendants on behalf of their agencies shall request sufficient funds necessary to develop and maintain the services, supports and structures described in the Decree, consistent with the choices of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities, including Class Members. Defendants shall take steps sufficient to implement funding mechanisms that facilitate transition among service settings.*

Within the first six years of the Consent Decree, the DDD will provide services to 3,000 individuals currently living at home with their families or in another community arrangement. These services will include both Home-Based Support Services (HBS) and Community Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA) services, inclusive of all support services provided under the Waiver. In addition, an unidentified number of individuals will be moving from ICFs/DD to HBS or CILA services. This will require at least an estimated 20% expansion of Waiver capacity. (The exact amount cannot be known until the individuals in ICFs/DD are identified.) Individuals selected to receive services under this Consent Decree may choose from any qualified and willing providers as defined in the Waiver.

Illinois has a substantial base of qualified HBS, CILA, and day program providers. There are approximately 203 licensed CILA providers, 125 HBS service facilitation agencies, 150 developmental training providers, and 65 supported employment providers, as well as providers of therapies, assistive technology, and other support services as provided under the Waiver. In order to meet the required expansion, current providers will be called upon to increase the size of their operations and new providers may be needed.

As part of the annual review of the Implementation Plan (see Section XII), the DDD is reviewing progress toward this needed expansion and will modify the Implementation Plan as necessary to implement the provisions of the Decree. Incorporating suggestions from the Plaintiffs and the Monitor, the DDD is focusing on three identified issues: (1) broadening awareness of three identified issues, (2) facilitating services for selected Class Members, and (3) analyzing potential barriers to CILA services. These three issues are discussed below.

Information Bulletins to Broaden Awareness of Services

Plaintiffs informed the DDD that families and PAS agencies may not be fully aware of the permissible number of Direct Support Person hours available through Intermittent and Family CILAs. An Information Bulletin clarifying this issue will be posted to the DDD website with a notice to all known stakeholders, including PAS agencies, by August of 2015.

Plaintiffs also requested the DDD highlight awareness of the availability of home and vehicle modifications, as well as adaptive equipment and assistive technology, under the Medicaid Waiver. An Information Bulletin bringing attention to these supports and funds will be released by August of 2015.

The Monitor requested the DDD modify documentation that the CILA Program includes not only 24-hour residential group homes, but host family settings, as well as intermittent and family arrangements. The DDPAS-10 Form was modified, and an Information Bulletin announcing this change was released in December of 2014.

Facilitating Services for Selected Class Members

Through the first four selections from the waiting list, 8.9%, or 307 Class Members, who had been selected for Waiver services, had not begun receiving services as of September 1, 2014. As more than a year had passed since these individuals were selected for services, the DDD conducted a focused review of these Class Members to analyze the reason for the delay in service implementation. Although the DDD has consistently exceeded benchmarks for implementing services to Class Members from the waiting list, the DDD is directing special attention to these 307 situations to ensure those selected are able to access needed services.

As of December 10, 2014, as a result of the review, DDD has learned that 67 of the 307 individuals no longer meet the criteria for inclusion in this review, e.g., they have since initiated services, received service awards, or refused services, etc. DDD continues to focus on the remaining 240 individual situations. While some of the remaining 240 individuals are still in the assessment process or choosing to wait for services to be developed by a specific provider or in a specific geographic area, others are experiencing difficulty in accessing services due to significant medical or behavior issues. Initial information indicates that 6 individuals have not selected service providers due to medical issues, 18 due to behavior issues, and 2 due to both medical and behavior issues. The DDD is increasing monitoring of the Transition Service Plan activities and provider selection for these individuals and is also working to facilitate any barriers for individuals still in the assessment process.

Prior to each parties meeting, the DDD will provide, to the Parties and Monitor only, a data report that will identify class members who are awaiting services after selection from the PUNS list. This report will identify the name of the class member, the PAS/ISC agency involved, the date the class member was selected from the waiting list, whether the class member was selected for HBS or CILA, date of the LTSP (if completed), and the status of services. This report will also include whether or not services have been offered and refused, a description of factors currently impeding the provision of services (such as geographical preference, medical need, etc.) and will also suggest next steps that may be utilized to overcome current obstacles. This report will assist in determining what impediments are currently preventing utilization of services for these individuals, as well as strategies for implementing needed services. The data reports will be accompanied by a summary report which will more generally characterize the current status of those awaiting services.

Plaintiffs and Defendants will continue to address any issues identified in the reports and work with the Monitor to determine the scope of any issues as well as potential solutions and strategies.

Analysis of HBS Selections

In addition, the DDD is conducting an inquiry with PAS/ISC agencies and guardians in situations where an individual was selected from the waiting list for CILA services but chose HBS. The purpose of this review is to determine if there were barriers to accessing CILA services and, if so, to identify strategies for addressing any identified barriers. The review will be completed by June 30, 2015.

New Providers

Any existing providers interested in implementing new programs or any entities interested in becoming providers through the DDD are directed to visit the DDD’s web page about becoming a new provider[[7]](#endnote-8). This web page informs potential providers about the qualification process, regulations, compliance issues, staff training requirements, DDD contact persons, etc. In addition, for potential new providers that require a license or certification such as CILA or developmental training providers, prior to the acceptance of a license or certification application, the DDD mandates attendance at one of the orientation sessions provided by the DDD approximately twice per year. Information about these sessions is posted on the DDD website. At these sessions, community services, quality assurance, and rates staff give joint presentations about provider regulations and processes and are available to answer questions from potential providers. The DDD will encourage providers of day services to develop options that reflect the value of supporting the Class Member with relationships, productive work, participation in community life, and personal decision-making. At the end of Section VI below, a description of a new employment initiative is provided. It is hoped this initiative will result in greater access to employment services for Class Members and that new providers and existing providers will work with the DDD to increase support for Class Members in employment activities.

Conversion of ICF/DD Capacity

The DDD may enter into voluntary closure agreements with providers of ICFs/DD. In situations involving voluntary closures, the DDD shall ensure that ICF/DD residents transitioning to a new residential setting are provided with a Transition Service Plan as called for in Paragraph 13 of the Consent Decree, are informed of their right to explore options among any qualified provider, and are given a choice of qualified residential providers if they choose to explore those options. For ICFs/DD of 16 or more capacities, closure agreements provide for rates during the closure period that recognize the need for coverage of fixed costs while individuals are transitioning to new residential settings of their choice, whether operated by the same or a different provider.

In order to provide more detail about the downsizing/closure process, a sample agreement is available for reference on the DDD’s website.[[8]](#endnote-9)

In response to prior concerns involving lack of choice provided to individuals residing in ICF/DDs that were closing or downsizing, the DDD continues to ensure that Class Members impacted by downsizing or closure of an ICF/DD have a Transition Service Plan or Modified Transition Service Plan prior to moving to community-based services

Provider Qualifications and Training

The qualifications for each type of Waiver provider are specified in Appendix C of the Waiver.[[9]](#endnote-10) Training requirements are listed and described in the DDD’s training catalogue available on the DDD’s website.[[10]](#endnote-11)

The quality improvement system for the Waiver is described in Appendix H of the Waiver. Performance measures are outlined throughout the Waiver itself.

**Section V. Community-Based Services/Placement for Individuals Residing in ICFs/DD**

*Paragraph 17. …within six (6) years after Approval of the Decree, all Class Members residing in ICFs-DD as of the date of Approval of the Decree (regardless of when in this timeframe the Class Member affirmatively requested placement in a Community-Based Setting) will transition to Community-Based Settings consistent with their Transition Service Plan, if, at the time of transition, the Class Member requests placement in a Community-Based Setting…*

Per the Consent Decree, at 2 ½, 4 ½, and 6 years respectively, the DDD will have implemented services to one-third of the individuals who were residing in ICFs/DD as of June 15, 2011 who inform the DDD they choose to move to Community-Based Placements. The number of individuals who have either requested to move, or who are moving due to voluntary downsizing and closure agreements of the ICFs/DD in which they are residents, calculated at 24 months following approval of the Consent Decree, i.e., June 15, 2013, was 889. As of December 31, 2013, 565 residents of ICFs/DD have moved to CILAs, 337 (59.6%) of whom had been residents of ICFs/DD that are the subject of voluntary downsizing and closure agreements. Any of the individuals who were residing in ICFs/DD as of June 15, 2011, who are newly identified as choosing to move to community-based services after June 15, 2013, will be offered services over the course of Years three through six.

As of June 1, 2015, there are 1,372 confirmed Class Members who are or were residing in ICFs/DD on or prior to June 15, 2011. The DDD is instructing the PAS/ISC agencies to work with these individuals as they become Class Members to submit applications for Waiver services. Applications will be processed as they are received by the DDD. In the event the number of individuals seeking to move requires the DDD to manage the flow of requests and time frames for authorization, the DDD will select individuals for services based on the length of time they have resided in an ICF/DD. That is, those residing in an ICF/DD the longest amount of time will be selected first. Three factors may cause individuals to be selected sooner, at the DDD’s discretion, than their class list date would indicate: (1) a request from the individual or the ICF/DD due to the inability of the ICF/DD to meet the individual’s medical or behavioral needs, (2) a request from roommates or friends who wish to move together at the same time, and (3) a voluntary downsizing or closure agreement.

As individuals are identified as choosing to move via the process described in the Outreach section above, pre-admission screening entities will be instructed to complete Medicaid Waiver eligibility assessments for them per the DD Pre-Admission Screening Manual[[11]](#endnote-12) and to report the results to the DDD via the ROCS software.[[12]](#endnote-13) Service options will be presented, per the same manual, to those individuals determined eligible. These options will be recorded on the DDPAS-10 Form. Transition Service Plans, as described below in the Transition Planning section, will be developed for those who choose to move.

The DDD monitors the transitions of individuals from ICFs/DD to Community-Based Settings or Services. Staff within the DDD’s Bureau of Transition Services is assigned to each individual, maintaining monthly contact with the applicable PAS/ISC agencies during the transition process. Monitoring activities are tracked through an internal database.

In addition to the activities by State staff, the PAS/ISSA monitor the individual’s successful adjustment to the new services by completing four weekly visits with the Class Member during the first month and quarterly visits thereafter. In the event the ISSA identifies problems, it shall take steps to resolve issues locally and refer matters as needed to the DDD per the Problem Resolution Protocol within the ISSA Guidelines.[[13]](#endnote-14) It may also request more hours for additional visits per the Guidelines.

In March of 2015, the DDD began conducting a focused review of 161 Class Members residing in ICFs/DD who had become a Class Member over a year ago but had not yet begun receiving services. As more than a year had passed since these individuals were identified for services, the DDD is analyzing the reason for the delay in service implementation. Although the DDD has consistently exceeded benchmarks for implementing services to Class Members from ICFs/DD, the DDD is directing special attention to these 161 situations to ensure Class Members are able to access needed services.

Prior to each parties meeting, the DDD will provide to the Parties and Monitor, a data report that will identify Class Members residing in ICFs/DD who are awaiting services but for whom the PAS/ISC has reported no progress toward services within the last six months. This report will identify the name of the Class Member, the PAS/ISC agency involved, the date of the LTSP (if completed), and the status of services. This report will also include whether or not services have been offered and refused, a description of factors currently impeding the provision of services (such as geographical preference, medical need, etc.) and will also suggest next steps that may be utilized to overcome current obstacles. This report will assist in determining what impediments are currently preventing utilization of services for these individuals, as well as strategies for implementing needed services. The data reports will be accompanied by a more general summary report characterizing the current status of those awaiting services.

Plaintiffs and Defendants will continue to address any issues identified in the reports and work with the Monitor to determine the scope of any issues as well as potential solutions and strategies.

**Section VI. Transition Planning**

*Paragraph 11. The Transition Service Plan shall describe the services the Class Member requires in a Community-Based Setting or through Community-Based Services; where and how such services can be developed and obtained; the supports and services the Class Member will need during his or her transition to a Community-Based Setting; and a timetable for completing that transition.*

*Paragraph 12. The Transition Service Plan shall be developed by a Qualified Professional in conjunction with the Class Member and, where one has been appointed, the Class Member’s legal guardian, and, where appropriate, the Class Member’s family members, friends and support staff who are familiar with the Class Member.*

*Paragraph 13. The process for developing a Transition Service Plan shall focus on the Class member’s personal vision, preferences, strengths and needs in home, community and work environments and shall reflect the value of supporting the Class Member with relationships, productive work, participation in community life, and personal decision-making.*

*Paragraph 14. All services and supports in the Transition Service Plan must be integrated into the community to the maximum extent possible, consistent with the choices of the Class Member and the Class Member’s legal guardian.*

*Paragraph 15. The Transition Service Plan shall not be limited by the current availability of services, provided, however, that nothing in this paragraph obligates Defendants to provide the types of services beyond those included in the Waiver and/or the State Plan.*

Implementation of the use of Transition Service Plans is a system change for the entire service delivery system. Time is needed in order to affect this change.

In order to complete this work, the DDD:

* By March 31, 2013, finalized the standard form and accompanying instructions and implementation processes,
* On April 16, 2013, provided training to PAS/ISC agencies and DDD staff,
* By May 31, 2013, hosted a second opportunity for training for all PAS/ISC agencies in small groups of agencies,
* By July 1, 2013, implemented the new process statewide for all Class Members,
* By January 31, 2014, evaluated the new process with the assistance of the contractor specifically assigned to assist the PAS/ISC agencies with the Transition Service Plan process,
* By December 5, 2014, modified the Transition Service Plan form and instructions as a result of the evaluation and posted the modified documents to the DDD website,
* On January 21, 2015, provided a webinar training session for the PAS/ISC agencies on the modified form and instructions, and
* On an on-going basis, will modify the new process as necessary to implement the provisions of the Decree.

The DDD finalized the process for completion of a Transition Service Plan for each class member seeking services in a Community-Based Setting. An initial version of a standardized format and accompanying instructions was developed with input from the Monitor, Plaintiffs’ Counsel, PAS/ISC agencies, and other advocates throughout the system. Two PAS/ISC agencies piloted the draft process and materials with Class Members and providers in their areas. These two PAS/ISC agencies participated in a planning/training meeting with the Monitor and DDD staff on August 23, 2012 in order to begin the pilot.

Monthly conference calls were held among the two PAS/ISC agencies, Monitor, and DDD staff throughout the pilot. The standardized format and accompanying instructions underwent final revisions, based on the experience of the pilot, for Statewide implementation.

Training for all PAS/ISC agencies was held on April 16, 2013. Local training sessions for small groups of PAS/ISC agencies were held throughout the rest of April and May of 2013. These training opportunities were conducted by DDD staff and the Monitor.

The DDD secured the services of a contractor to provide technical assistance to the PAS/ISC agencies in developing Transition Service Plans and to the DDD in evaluating the effectiveness of the process. This contractor is working with DDD staff on an on-going basis to facilitate monitoring of the Transition Service Plan process. The contractor’s report of the results of his first evaluation was shared with the PAS/ISC agencies and appropriate DDD staff on December 2, 2014. This report contains a checklist developed for quality reviews of the Transition Service Plans. The checklist is being used by DDD staff to review Transition Service Plans as they are submitted to the DDD. PAS/ISC agencies have been encouraged to use the checklist for their internal quality assurance purposes.

The modified form and instructions released in December of 2014 includes changes that ensure proper documentation of the individual’s and guardian’s participation in the transition plan development, as well as documentation that all options for day programs are discussed with the individual and guardian, including employment. These changes are in response to concerns identified by the contractor during his first evaluation. The DDD will conduct internal reviews of completed transition plans to ensure that PAS agents are correctly utilizing the modified forms which ensure the individual and guardian are included in the process. These internal reviews will verify that such participation is properly documented, including documentation of day programming and employment discussions with the individual and/or their guardian.

A webinar training event for the PAS/ISC agencies was conducted on January 21, 2015, about the modified Transition Service Plan form and instructions. This training opportunity addressed concerns raised in the contractor’s report, including issues about individual participation and employment discussions.

The contractor identified a number of Transition Service Plans in which the Class Member’s participation in the development of the Plan was not clearly identified. As such, it is unclear based on the current Plan, whether the Class Member was personally involved. In response to this finding, the Division will take the following steps:

* By April 30, 2015, obtain acceptable documentation from the PAS/ISC agencies to confirm that the individuals did in fact participate in the Transition Service Plan development.
* By April 30, 2015, update the Modified Transition Service Plan form and instructions for use with these individuals.
* By August 31, 2015, ensure PAS/ISC agencies complete Modified Transition Service Plans, with documented participation from the individuals, for any individuals from this sample who did not participate in their original Transition Service Plan.

The new process is consistent with Paragraphs 11 through 15 of the Decree quoted above at the beginning of this Section.

The process addresses the coordination required between PAS/ISC agencies when a Class Member is moving from one geographic location to another. The training for the PAS/ISC agencies will emphasize their respective responsibilities in such situations.

Transition Service Plans are being completed for each individual leaving an ICF/DD or the Family Home. In no more than 12 months prior to the development of the Transition Service Plan, the Class Member must be presented with all of his or her service alternatives. Transition Plans are not required for those individuals who will be receiving Home-Based Support Services (HBS) in their own or family’s home. An individual service plan is still required for each individual in the HBS Program as described in the Waiver.

No individuals were required to wait for the development and implementation of this process in order to move to a Community-Based Setting. PAS/ISC agencies followed the processes described in the DD PAS Manual to assist individuals in obtaining needed services. Now that the Transition Service Plan process is implemented, the Plans shall be completed within sufficient time to provide appropriate and sufficient transitions of Class Members in accordance with the deadlines set forth in the Decree. For those Class Members who moved to a Community-Based Setting without a Transition Service Plan, the ISSA will work with the Class Member and guardian to ensure needed modifications are made to the Individual Service Plan to address the Class Member’s personal vision, preferences, strengths and needs in home, community and work environments. The DDD, with input from the Plaintiffs and Monitor developed a Modified Transition Service Plan for this purpose. The DDD instructed PAS/ISC agencies to complete Modified Transition Service Plans for all individuals who moved prior to July 1, 2013 without a Transition Service Plan in place. 466 Modified Transition Service Plans were required and completed.

This Transition Service Plan is separate from the Individual Service Plans completed for all individuals enrolling in the Waiver. The Individual Service Plans are completed prior to the individual transitioning to community-based services and are inclusive of risk assessments to ensure the health and general well-being of the individuals.

The DDD will focus efforts to enhance access to supported and competitive employment opportunities as part of the Transition Service Plan process. These efforts will be funded in part through an Employment First project supported by the federal Balancing Incentive Program. As described in the Balancing Incentive Program funding proposals:

The first phase of this project will include working with a consultant (or consulting group) and stakeholders to:

* Define the types of opportunities we wish to promote;
* Determine provider qualifications;
* Review and, as needed, modify current rate structure;
* Discuss maximum utilization issues; and
* Establish data collection and benchmark expectations.

The second phase will include obtaining services through an RFI process to:

* Assist 200 individuals in the Adult DD Waiver in accessing supported and competitive employment; and
* Develop a procedural guide and other materials for use by providers throughout the Illinois system in assisting and supporting individuals to find and maintain employment.

Implementation of this initiative has been delayed as procurement issues are being resolved. The current project start date is anticipated to be during the first quarter of FY16. The project will continue through FY17.

To better inform the upcoming initiative described above, the DDD reviewed LTSPs submitted between January 1, 2015 (the date plans were first required in the revised format) and May 21, 2015 (the date of the review) to identify plans that included a preference for employment. There were 145 plans submitted during this time period. Of those plans, 58 (40%) indicated employment; 87 (60%) did not. The DDD will obtain from the ISCs a status report of the implementation of the employment provisions of these plans, identify potential barriers, determine next steps for individual situations, and compile summary data for use in Phase I of the above initiative. The initial status reports will be collected and summarized by August 31, 2015.

**Section VII. Waiting List for Community Services and Placement**

*Paragraph 22(d). Within two (2) years after Approval of the Decree, Defendants shall provide, in accordance with the Class Members’ Transition Service Plans, appropriate Community-Based Services and/or placement in Community-Based Settings for at least 1,000 Waiting List Class Members who are selected from the Waiting List…with these Class Members served in order of priority. In each of the third, fourth, fifth and sixth years following Approval of the Decree, Defendants shall serve at least 500 additional Waiting List Class Members who are selected from the Waiting List, again in order of priority.*

*Paragraph 23. All Class Members who are on the Waiting List after the end of the sixth year following Approval of the Decree shall receive appropriate Community-Based Services and/or placement in a Community-Based Setting, such that they move off the Waiting List at a reasonable pace…*

Over the first six years of the Decree, the DDD is to serve under the Medicaid Waiver an additional 3,000 individuals from the waiting list. The addition of these 3,000 capacities will be accomplished by adding people to both the CILA and HBS programs.

The provision of community-based services and/or placement in a community-based setting for waiting list Class Members pursuant to Paragraph 22(d) of the Consent Decree will be based on an annual compliance date of 1000 class members by June 30, 2013 and 500 Class Members per year by June 30 for the next four years thereafter. This annual compliance date is consistent with the State of Illinois fiscal year as well as the semi-annual date for information provided in the required data reports.

The DDD will use the following process for selecting individuals to be served from the Class Member waiting list:

Exclude anyone whose record is not labeled as a *Ligas* Class Member. As secondary edits to double check for accuracy of the list and selection, exclude the following records in all cases:

* Persons previously selected in PUNS selections [These individuals have already been chosen and offered services.],
* Persons in the Planning category [These individuals are not seeking services within the year, but are anticipating the need for services within five years.],
* Persons who are under the age of 18 [These individuals are not Class Members.],
* Persons residing in Child Care Institutions (Program Code 19D) and Community Living Facilities (Program Code 67D) [These individuals are already receiving residential services.],
* Persons already enrolled in the Children’s Support and Residential Waivers (Waiver Codes D1 or D2) [These individuals already have a funding path for entrance into the adult Waiver.],
* Persons who are client type [These individuals are not Class Members.]:
  + B, *Bogard* Class Members,
  + C, CILA participants,
  + F, Family Assistance Program developmental disabilities participants,
  + K, Family Assistance Program mental health participants,
  + S, State-Operated Developmental Center residents, and
  + W, Mental Health Home-Based Support Services participants, and
* Persons who are client type [These individuals already have a funding path for entrance into the adult Waiver.]:
  + G, Children’s Support Waiver participants, and
  + R, Children’s Residential Waiver participants.

When selecting adults for HBS, exclude anyone already in the HBS program.

Selections will include individuals enrolled in the adult Waiver who indicate a need for more services. For example, persons receiving day program services who may request in-home supports, or persons receiving HBS services who may request CILA services, will be included in the selection process for the 3,000 capacities. Individuals admitted to ICFs/DD after June 15, 2011 who choose to move will also be included in the selections.

Per the original Implementation Plan, the selections were to include the following:

For every 100 individuals selected, include for residential services criteria:

25 individuals who are recorded on the PUNS database as being in an emergency situation (i.e., needing services immediately)[[14]](#endnote-15) and needing out-of-home supports;

25 individuals residing at home with a primary caregiver age 75 or over.

For every 100 individuals selected, include for Home-Based Support Services:

20 individuals who are recorded on the PUNS database as being in an emergency (i.e., needing services immediately) or critical (i.e., needing services within the year) situation and needing in-home or day supports;

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15 individuals leaving the Public School System in the last 5 years (use age 22 as selection criteria);

15 individuals residing at home with a primary caregiver age 60 or over.

Within each category, selections will be made by length of time on the database.

The DDD selected sufficient numbers to enroll in the Waiver 1,000 individuals in the first two years of the Decree and 500 in year three and will select sufficient numbers to enroll in the Waiver 500 in each of Years four through six. As of June 1, 2015, 2,306 individuals have been served from the PUNS list.

With the expansion envisioned under the Decree, it is believed the waiting list will move at a faster pace after Year Six. The DDD will track and post on its website the average length of time individuals wait on the PUNS database.

At the end of July of 2011, of the individuals actively enrolled in PUNS, 16% were recorded as being in the emergency category (i.e., needing services immediately), 54% in the critical category (i.e., needing services within the year), and 30% in the planning category (i.e., needing services within the next five years). Summary information regarding the PUNS enrollments can be found on the DDD’s website.[[15]](#endnote-16)

Although PUNS selection categories have been modified in past year, beginning in 2015, selections will be conducted following the process outlined in the original Implementation Plan. That is, one-half of the selections will focus on those individuals requesting 24-Hour CILA services and one-half will focus on those individuals requesting HBS services.

**Section VIII. Community Crises**

*Paragraph 21(c). Defendants shall ensure that all Class Members who are determined to be in a situation of Crisis, and who request to receive Community-Based Services and/or placement in a Community-Based Setting, receive such services and/or placement in such setting expeditiously.*

The PAS/ISC agencies will continue to submit requests for services from individuals in crisis situations, and the DDD will continue to process these requests, using existing criteria available on the DDD website.[[16]](#endnote-17) These requests are not part of the 3,000 capacities to be provided under Section VII, Waiting List for Community Services and Placement. The DDD will ensure individuals are served expeditiously. Through agreement between the DDD and the Monitor, “served expeditiously” is reviewed as receiving some supports or services within a 24 to 72 hour period after an individual’s crisis status is confirmed to ensure the individual’s safety.

The DDD initially provided the Monitor with baseline information regarding crisis requests approved and denied during FY10, FY11, and FY12 (year to date). As part of its compliance reports, the DDD continues to provide to the Monitor data regarding the crisis requests approved and denied. The Monitor reviews a sample of these requests and is given additional information upon request.

As stated in his third annual report:

The Monitor reviewed crisis Class Member information and data from all 397 crisis requests during FY 2014. The results showed that 95% (377) of the Class Members who were found to be in crisis, received some services within a 24-72 hour period after their crisis status was confirmed. These findings demonstrate that the Defendants' efforts have continued to be successful. The Monitor will continue to work with the Defendants, including joint reviews of the crisis management reports, to improve crisis responsiveness.

The Monitor further notes in his third annual report:

The Defendants' data reports indicate that, in FY 2012, 288 Class Members who requested service pursuant to the crisis criteria were served. FY 2013, 269 Class Members in crisis were served, a slight upturn from the previous year. In FY 2014 the number of Class Members who required crisis services, surprisingly, jumped to 397, a 47% increase over the previous year. It is not clear why this sharp increase in crisis requests occurred.

Per the Monitor’s recommendation in connection with the increase in crisis requests described above, the DDD, in conjunction with the Monitor and input from the Parties, will conduct an analysis of crisis data to determine the relationship between crisis applicants and the PUNS list. This analysis will be completed by September 30, 2015.

**Section IX. Appeal Process**

*Paragraph 24. Any Class Member who disputes a decision by Defendants or a Community Service Provider regarding eligibility for, or delivery of, Community-Based Services or placement in a Community-Based Setting shall, pursuant to governing law, have the right to appeal or seek administrative or judicial review of such decisions through Defendants’ existing Fair Hearings process (as set forth in 89 Ill.Adm.Code Part 120) or as otherwise provided by law. Class Members also may avail themselves of any informal appeal process that currently exists.*

Individuals may appeal any denial, suspension, termination, or reduction of Home and Community-Based Waiver Services. The appeal process, including time frames, is described in Title 59, Chapter 1, Part 120.[[17]](#endnote-18) Individuals are informed of this right to appeal through the use of Form IL462-1202, Notice of Individual’s Right to Appeal, available on the DDD website.[[18]](#endnote-19) Individuals are also informed of their right to appeal a determination of ineligibility via the DDPAS-10 Form, available on the DDD website.[[19]](#endnote-20)

Due to inconsistencies among various regulatory documents as to the proper submission of an appeal request, the DDD and HFS are working together to make appropriate revisions to regulatory documents. In the meantime, the DDD has provided the PAS/ISC agencies with a checklist and instructions for submitting appeal requests. The DDD provided an informational session on this checklist via phone conference with the 18 PAS/ISC agencies. The PAS/ISC agencies are charged with assisting Class Members and Potential Class Members in submitting appeal requests.

The Monitor reviewed the appeal data with DDD staff in April of 2012. On May 1, 2012, the Monitor notified the Parties of non-compliance of the handling of appeals as called for by Paragraph 24 of the Decree. In his first annual report, the Monitor stated that a number of problems with the appeal process were identified, including that scheduling of appeal hearings and obtaining written hearing determinations were taking an inordinately long time. The DDD, with input from the Monitor and Class Counsel, developed a corrective action plan.

As part of this action plan, the DDD hired an additional individual to assist in processing appeals, and HFS hired an additional three new Administrative Law Judges as hearing officers and one additional attorney to support the hearing process. The process has been streamlined and PAS/ISC agencies have been trained on the revised process.

**Section X. Resources Necessary for Implementation**

*Paragraph 5. Annual budgets submitted by Defendants on behalf of their agencies shall request sufficient funds necessary to develop and maintain the services, supports and structures described in the Decree, consistent with the choices of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities, including Class Members.*

Each year of the Consent Decree, the DDD and the DHS Budget Office will prepare annual proposals for inclusion in the Governor’s Introduced Budget for the funds necessary to carry out the provisions of the Decree. These proposals will include items that are currently funded and must be maintained as well as items that require new funding. The known resource needs include:

* Contractual agreements
  + Outreach to ICFs/DD Residents [A Vendor is now under contract with the DDD.],
  + Pre-Admission Screening, both on-going maintenance and new funds for increased volume of eligibility determinations [Pre-Admission Screening allocations for the 18 PAS/ISC agencies were increased by 10% in the FY13 Community Service Agreements and remain at that level for FY14.],
  + Increased PUNS enrollments [At this writing, we are not yet experiencing the anticipated volume of new requests; however, we expect a higher volume may still occur as additional selections are made.],
  + Transition Service Plan development [With the assistance of the Monitor, this work was done within the DDD by staff hired for *Ligas* activities.],
  + Increased ISSA enrollments [These are being funded as individuals enroll in the Waiver.],
  + Consultant to work within the Bureau of Transition Services during the first two years of the Decree to review Transition Plans and train PAS/ISC agencies and providers on their development [The DDD has contracted with an individual for this assistance.], and
  + Consultant to work within the Bureau of Transition Services to serve as a family liaison for families of Class Members residing at home [The DDD contracted with an organization to serve as the Vendor for this support rather than seek an individual consultant within the Bureau.];
* Additional DDD staff:
  + (1) Strategic Planning Unit, for a *Ligas* Compliance Coordinator to oversee implementation activities and prepare required compliance reports [A staff person has been assigned to these responsibilities.],
  + (1) Program and Data Support Bureau, for maintenance and management of the class list [This position is currently dedicated to a contractual position.],
  + (7) Bureau of Quality Management, for monitoring of community-based services, including intake and management of complaints, trend analysis of complaints and investigations, targeted site visits to new providers, and increased volume of follow-up activity as concerns are identified and addressed [These positions have been filled.],
  + (4) Bureau of Transition Services, for facilitating and overseeing transition activity for the individuals moving from ICFs/DD and the 3000 individuals starting services from the community [These positions have been filled.],
  + (1) Appeals Unit, for increased volume of appeals [This position has been filled.],
  + (1) Rates Section, for increased volume of application and rate packets [This position has been filled.], and
  + (3) Medicaid Waiver Unit, for increased activity regarding Waiver oversight [These positions have been filled.];
* Direct Services
  + Services for 1000 individuals in the first two years and 500 each year thereafter, and
  + Services for individuals who choose to move from ICFs/DD.

The above implementation items are in addition to the on-going maintenance items included in the DDD’s budget. These maintenance items include:

* Services for persons residing in ICFs/DD,
* Services for persons enrolled in the Waiver,
* Base Pre-Admission Screening grants,
* Base grants for PUNS enrollments, and
* Administrative staff within the DDD.

The DDD will make every effort to maximize federal Medicaid match for the direct services and administrative activities. The DDD reviews rejected claims and works with providers to correct or complete data for claims submissions. The DDD needs to increase those efforts and account for the anticipated growth in volume as Waiver capacity expands. An additional staff person has been hired to assist with these efforts. Where applicable, the Money Follows the Person grant will be used to secure enhanced match during the first year of community-based services for those individuals who leave ICFs/DD for eligible settings under the grant. In addition, funds from the federal Balancing Incentive Program will be used to support Waiver capacity expansion and improve access to supported and competitive employment services. Existing interagency agreements describe the coordination between DDD and HFS regarding Medicaid match. See the following Section XI.

Appropriations

The DDD’s budgets since Fiscal Year 12 combined the major appropriation line for community-based services and ICF/DD services into one line. This enables the DDD to redirect resources, if appropriate, as individuals and providers make future choices regarding service provision. The DDD will request that this practice continue in each subsequent year of the Consent Decree. However, the DDD will maintain sufficient records to enable the Monitor to determine whether the State is fulfilling its obligations under Paragraph 4 of the Decree, including its obligation to provide funding sufficient to meet the needs of those who choose to live in ICFs/DD and to ensure that such resources are not affected by the State’s fulfillment of its obligation to provide Community-Based Services or Settings to those who choose those service options.

Annually, per the deadline established by the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget, the DDD will calculate and submit details of needed resources for consideration for inclusion in the Governor’s Introduced Budget for the following fiscal year. Each year the needed resources for implementation of the Consent Decree, separate and apart from the maintenance items specified above, will include, at a minimum, funding for:

* Community-Based Services and Community-Based Settings, both new funds for those beginning services and annualized funds for those who began services in the prior year;
* Assessments and outreach;
* Special rates for ICFs/DD voluntary closure agreements; and
* Contractual consultants and staff.

The proposed budget for *Ligas* implementation will be annually presented to the Parties and Intervenors. Budget information is included in the data reports.

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Federal Approval of Waiver Capacity

Each year, as new enrollment opportunities are made available for individuals, the DDD will work with HFS to submit an amendment increasing the capacity of the adult Waiver[[20]](#endnote-21), as needed.

The adult Waiver was renewed by the federal government effective July 1, 2012. As part of that renewal, the total capacity of the Waiver was increased to 19,000 in anticipation of the expected growth during FYs 13 and 14.

An amendment was submitted to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on March 11, 2014, to increase the capacity of the adult Waiver to 20,840. As of June 5, 2015, that amendment is pending approval by the federal government.

**Section XI. Interagency Agreements**

Interagency agreements, necessary to carry out the provisions of the Decree, are in place among the Departments. Specifically, there is an interagency agreement among the Departments of Children and Family Services, Healthcare and Family Services, Human Services, and Public Health that addresses the interactions involving developmental disabilities Medicaid programs. In addition, there is an interagency agreement specific to the implementation of the Money Follows the Person grant. These agreements are available upon request from the DDD. At this point, the DDD does not anticipate the need for any new interagency agreements to implement the Decree.

**Section XII. Process for Plan Reporting and Modification**

*Paragraph 28. The Implementation Plan shall be updated and amended annually, or at such earlier intervals as Defendants deem necessary or appropriate…*

*Paragraph 33. …Not less than every six (6) months, Defendants shall provide to the Monitor, Plaintiffs, Class Counsel, Intervenors and Intervenors’ Counsel and make publicly available, a detailed report containing data and information sufficient to evaluate Defendants’ compliance with the Decree and Defendants’ progress toward achieving compliance. Prior to the first report, the Parties and the Monitor will agree on the data and information that must be included in such reports…*

Pursuant to Paragraph 28 of the Decree, the DDD will review the Implementation Plan on an annual basis. Changes will be made, as needed, with the assistance of the Monitor. The proposed modifications will be submitted to the Monitor. The Plaintiffs and, if applicable, the Intervenors, will be given the opportunity for input.

Per Paragraph 33 of the Decree, the DDD will report data and information regarding its progress toward compliance with the provisions of the Decree. The Parties, Intervenors, and Monitor agreed to a standard format for these data reports, which are now being produced twice per year by February 15th and August 15th. [By mutual agreement, the deadline for the first report was extended so the DDD could incorporate information regarding the Governor’s proposed budget for FY13.] These reports are being posted on the DDD’s website as they are available.

**Section XIII. Acronyms**

The following, for reference, is a list of acronyms used throughout this document:

CILA – Community Integrated Living Arrangement

DDD – Division of Developmental Disabilities

DHS – Illinois Department of Human Services

HBS – Home-Based Support Services

HFS – Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services

ICF/DD – Intermediate Care Facility for Persons with Developmental Disabilities

ICF/MR – Intermediate Care Facility for Persons with Mental Retardation

ISC – Independent Service Coordination

ISSA – Individual Service and Support Advocacy

JCAR – Joint Committee on Administrative Rules

PAS – Pre-Admission Screening

PUNS – Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services

RFP – Request for Proposals

ROCS – Reporting of Community Services

1. Capitalized terms in the Implementation Plan are defined in the Implementation Plan are defined in the Consent Decree. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
2. The link for the *Ligas* Consent Decree is <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/OneNetLibrary/27896/documents/By_Division/Division%20of%20DD/LigasConsentDecree061511.pdf>. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
3. The link to Form IL1238, Choice of Supports and Services, is <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/OneNetLibrary/27897/documents/Forms/IL462-1238.pdf>. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
4. The link to the DDPAS-10 Form is <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/OneNetLibrary/4/documents/PAS/DDPAS100111.pdf>. [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
5. The link to the PUNS Manual is <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/OneNetLibrary/27897/documents/Manuals/DD%20Manuals/Illinois%20PUNS%20Manual.pdf>. [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
6. The link to the PUNS brochures, flyers, and posters is <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=31104>. [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
7. The link to the new provider page is <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=47336>. [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
8. The link to the sample downsizing agreement is <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=50038>. [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
9. The link to the adult DD Waiver is <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/OneNetLibrary/27896/documents/By_Division/Division%20of%20DD/Adult%20DD%20Waiver.pdf>. [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
10. The link to the DDD’s training information is <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=45209>. [↑](#endnote-ref-11)
11. The link to the DD Pre-Admission Screening Manual is <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=53018>. [↑](#endnote-ref-12)
12. The link to the ROCS Software is <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/OneNetLibrary/27896/documents/By_Division/MentalHealth/DHSCRSManual.pdf>. [↑](#endnote-ref-13)
13. The link to the ISSA Problem Resolution Protocol is <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=56642>. [↑](#endnote-ref-14)
14. The PUNS database categorizes individuals into emergency, critical, and planning needs. See the PUNS Manual for definitions of these categories. The link to the PUNS Manual is <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/OneNetLibrary/27897/documents/Manuals/DD%20Manuals/Illinois%20PUNS%20Manual.pdf>. [↑](#endnote-ref-15)
15. The link to the PUNS summary reports is <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=51905>. [↑](#endnote-ref-16)
16. The link to the crisis criteria is <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/OneNetLibrary/27897/documents/DD%20Reports/Community%20Emergency%20Criteria%20-%20Adults.pdf>. [↑](#endnote-ref-17)
17. The link to Rule 120 is <http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/059/05900120sections.html>. [↑](#endnote-ref-18)
18. The link to Form IL462-1202, Notice of Individual’s Right to Appeal is <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/OneNetLibrary/27897/documents/Forms/IL462-1202.pdf>. [↑](#endnote-ref-19)
19. The link to the DDPAS-10 Form is <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/OneNetLibrary/4/documents/PAS/DDPAS100111.pdf>. [↑](#endnote-ref-20)
20. The link to the adult DD Waiver is <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/OneNetLibrary/27896/documents/By_Division/Division%20of%20DD/Adult%20DD%20Waiver.pdf>. [↑](#endnote-ref-21)