



An Overview

LifeChoices

TRANSFORMING OUR DD SYSTEM ▶

What is “Life Choices”?

Life Choices is about transforming our DD system to ensure that all individuals with DD in Illinois:

- Are healthy and safe
- Have real relationships with family and friends
- Have a paying job if they want to work
- Make decisions about their lives
- Have opportunities to contribute to their community

Federal Impacts Guiding The Transformation Work

- *It's the law – The ADA and Olmstead both guide our work*
- *Here are links to information about both:*
 - [The ADA](#)
 - [Olmstead Ruling](#)
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) Home and Community Services Regulations details can be found at this link: [2014 HCBS Settings Rules from CMS](#)

Purpose of HCBS Rules

To ensure that individuals receiving long-term services and supports through home and community based service (HCBS) programs have full access to benefits of community living and the opportunity to receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate.

- Settings
- Conflict-free case management
- Person centered planning

Some Specifics in the Rules about Settings ...

Optimizes individual initiative, autonomy,
and independence in making life choices

Emphasis on operation of settings as well as
location

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How to Ensure Individual Choice: Person Centered Planning Within the Regulations

- The person-centered planning process is driven by the individual
- Includes people chosen by the individual
- Provides necessary information and support to the individual to ensure that the individual directs the process to the maximum extent possible
- Offers choices to the individual regarding services and supports the individual receives and from whom
- Provides method to request updates
- Identifies the strengths, preferences, needs (clinical and support), and desired outcomes of the individual

What is in Plan?

Written plan reflects –

- Setting is chosen by the individual and is integrated in, and supports full access to the greater community
- Opportunities to seek employment and work in competitive integrated settings
- Opportunity to engage in community life, control personal resources, and receive services in the community to the same degree of access as individuals not receiving Medicaid HCBS

Conflict Free Case Management:

Case Management includes –

- Determination of eligibility for services

- Matching of participant to providers

- Development of the plan

- Monitoring of the plan

Conflict-free means –

- Not done by service provider

- Not done by family member of the participant

What is in Plan Continued?

Distributed to the individual and others involved in plan

Includes purchase/control of self-directed services

Exclude unnecessary or inappropriate services and supports

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Life Choices Teams

Team 1 “Support Coordination Enhancement”

- Define role of service coordinators under the new system

Team 2 “Intake and Eligibility”

- Develop strategies to help individuals and families better navigate our complex system

Team 3 “PUNS and HCBS Enrollment”

- Respond to feedback from PUNS listening tour

Team 4 “Plan and Provider Selection”

- Person-centered plan that describes individual abilities, preferences, goals and support needs; guidelines for assessment and development of plan; determine training needed prior to service coordinators developing plan

Team 5 “Monitoring and Quality”

- Establish better collaboration and synergy between ISC agencies and service providers to lead to better quality and improved health and safety outcomes

Team 6 “Business Processes”

Team Members Include

Family members

ISC representative(s)

Service Provider representative(s)

At least one staff member from the appropriate Bureau within the DD Division.

Steering Committee

Comprised of Leadership from the Illinois Division of Developmental Disabilities

Responsibilities include:

- Review team recommendations,
- determine implementation and impact.

Results and Recommendations

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Accomplishments (so far)

- **Streamline Level II pre-admission screening –**
 - Date on physical exam (was 30 days; no extended to 1 year)
 - Psychological evaluations
 - Mild range of documented intellectual disability – psychological within 5 years
 - Moderate range – any 2 previous psychologicals or single psychological within 5 years
 - Severe to profound range – any psychological on record; not necessary to obtain a new psychological
 - If already in a DD waiver program and changing to another waiver program, no need for updated psychological
 - Transferring from ICF/DD to waiver setting, no longer need Level II
 - Expanded list of eligibility assessment tools
 - Certified school psychologist added as qualified assessor

More Accomplishments...

- **Improved communication**

- Quarterly meetings between DDD and ISC agencies
- DDD Scoop
- Town hall meetings (coming)
- Information Bulletin process
- Sharing of review findings

- **PAS/ISC/ISSA terminology changed to Independent Service Coordination (ISC) Agencies**

- **PUNS database and enrollment tool updated (see information bulletin for specifics)**
- **Expanded choice in ISC agency**
- **Designated liaison to build provider capacity**
- **Removal of Active Treatment expectations**

Coming soon...

- Person-centered planning
 - Discovery
 - Coordinated and monitored by ISC
 - Implementation plan by providers
- Training
 - Identification of desired personal outcomes
 - Supporting those who do not communicate verbally
- Service facilitation will no longer be mandatory for those receiving home-based services
- Updated ISC visiting notes to better align with personal outcomes
- Online provider search

And...

- Online provider search engine
- Revised review processes with a focus on measuring supporting outcomes rather than compliance with rules
- Increased outreach for school-aged children in the transition period
- Technical assistance to providers upon request
- Enhanced support for persons seeking Medicaid eligibility due only to waiver participation

Follow Up Questions

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The Life Choices project has been made possible by the tremendous support of the family members, community Independent Support Coordination Agencies, the Community Service Provider agencies, the Illinois Division of Developmental Disabilities, and through the support of a grant from the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities.

