Independent Monitoring for Quality Marks 20th Anniversary

Independent Monitoring for Quality (IM4Q), an information-gathering method the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) uses to improve the lives of individuals with an intellectual or developmental disabilities, will mark its 20th year.

IM4Q 20th

During IM4Q, independent teams (not from ODP and usually made up of two or three members, at least one with a disability) monitor the satisfaction and outcomes of a random sample of individuals receiving services statewide. Information is used to ensure that people are healthy and safe and to offer services that promote choice and control in their everyday lives. The Independent Monitoring for Quality (IM4Q) Annual Statewide Training will take place July 16 and 17, 2019 at the Hilton Harrisburg. Registration cost is $80 per participant. (Supports Coordinators are half price.) at https://tinyurl.com/IM4QTraining by July 10.

Quality Reports Available on MyODP

The 2017-18 Independent Monitoring for Quality (IM4Q) and National Core Indicator (NCI) reports are now available on MyODP. You can view the reports on MyODP, including user-friendly charts and user-friendly icons. See above for related article.

Additionally, the annual Information Sharing and Advisory Committee (ISAC) Report highlighting recommendations, strategies, and performance measures is online. This report similarly guides ODP and gauges its progress in helping individuals in the service system to achieve everyday lives. For example, the 2018 ISAC Annual Report reveals a 2% increase in Competitive Integrated Employment July 2017-August 2018, measuring Recommendation 3: *Increase Employment*. Strategies included the formation of an Employment Dashboard, an ODP Comprehensive Employment Report, and ODP/ State Employment Leadership Network (SELN) Regional Forums on Employment and Community Inclusion

You can view the 2018 ISAC Annual Report on MyODP.

Information, Events, and Resources

DEVICE HELP: United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) and the Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation (PATF) have created the iPAD Technology Access Partnership (iTAP). PATF can provide financing for the purchase of an iPad and necessary adaptive applications through a mini-loan program. UCP assistive technology staff will provide free iPad setup and training. Call 1-800-998-4827 or email jwardle@ucpcentralpa.org for more information.

SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION: Beverly Frantz, PhD from the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University, and a panel of experts from the District Attorney's Office, and law enforcement personnel will speak at "Building Awareness and Capacity in Response to the Sexual Abuse of People with Developmental Disabilities" seminar, Thursday, June 27,

PA Woman Creates Braille Menus for Restaurants

Keystone Human Services recently highlighted Hillary McFadden, an entrepreneur who creates braille menus for local restaurants.

After being frustrated at having to rely on someone else to read the menu at one of her favorite places, Cornerstone Coffeehouse in Camp Hill, PA, she decided to write one for them in braille. They realized the need and purchased two braille menus from her.

She then approached other local restaurants and found similar success.

"I feel proud of what I'm doing. I feel more confident in myself," Hillary told ODP in a recent phone interview. She is working on expanding her services to other local restaurants.

Hillary also participates in the National Federation of the Blind BELL (Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning) Academy program, providing braille instruction in fun, interactive ways. She also volunteers to read to children at a local Headstart program and introduce them to braille.

Photo provided by Keystone Human Services

Data Highlight: People with Disabilities Who are Parents

A newly released National Core Indicators™ Data Highlight titled "*What Can States Learn From NCI Results About People With Disabilities Who Are Parents?*" speaks to the 2017-2018 NCI In-Person Survey Data, which indicates that 4.5% of respondents were reported to be parents. The report hopes to ignite conversation among state service systems on whether these parents have access to services that are tailored to meet their unique needs and to inspire collaborative efforts among state agencies to provide educational opportunities for potential and current parents with disabilities regarding child care and other important aspects of child rearing.

Deputy Secretary Provides Testimony on Community Participation Supports Services

Deputy Secretary Kristin Ahrens testified June 5 in front of the House Human Services Committee about the Community Participation Services (CPS) service and changes to the rates. Deputy Secretary Ahrens shared the history of how the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) worked with stakeholders starting in 2015 to make changes to the way day habilitation and prevocational services were provided.

The Deputy emphasized that the service is designed to ensure that, as a system, we are continually providing opportunities for lifelong learning to adults, regardless of the severity of their

Photo Courtest of PA House of Representatives

disabilities. She also explained that individual choice is key. Providers must offer opportunities for people to be supported in community settings but the choice of if and how much is up to the individual.

Deputy Secretary Ahrens explained that the changes to the rates were in response to provider requests for ODP to simplify billing. ODP worked with a provider workgroup to reduce the number of billing codes from 54 to 15. ODP opened a 30-day public comment period in March on these proposed revised rates for CPS services and received a significant number of comments. The highest volume of concerns received about the proposed rates were that the facility-based rates were too low. ODP worked with the Department's actuary to adjust the proposed rates based on the comments received. The adjusted rates were published in final on 5/25/2019.

In her testimony, Ahrens explained that the challenge that ODP faces is balancing the demands of both the
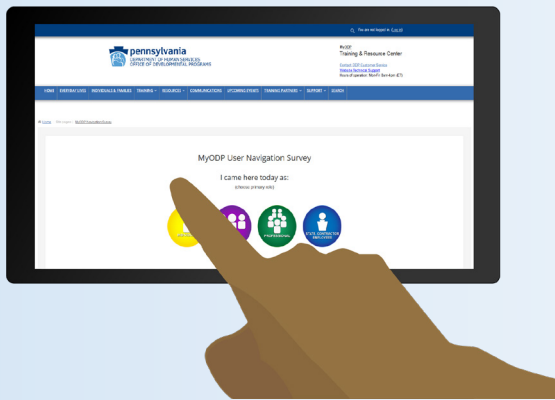
Virtual Targeting Trainings Available with ASL

From December 2018 through March 2019, the Special Populations Unit, under the Office of Developmental Programs, Bureau of Autism Services, conducted several Virtual Targeted Trainings. These have since been recorded with an American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter and are now available on MyODP.org. The trainings are linked below:

- Best Practices When Working with an Interpreter
- Deaf Sensitivity Training
- Deaf Space: What Does It Look Like?
- Deaf-Blindness 101: Communication and Equal Access
- Making Homes Accessible for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals
- The Seven Senses and Hand-Under-Hand Prompting

Please Take Our Website Navigation Survey

A MyODP User Navigation Survey is available online at: https://www.myodp.org/mod/page/view.php?id=22144. Your input is greatly appreciated.

Social stories are helpful in enabling individuals with and without disabilities communicate. View the Social Story Resource Collection at paautism.org.

Communication Corner

June 24-30th is National Deaf-Blind Awareness Week!

Those who support individuals who are deaf-blind have a unique opportunity to ensure that the person has access to the world around them. The most important challenge is implementing meaningful communication. Following are some quick tips for communication:
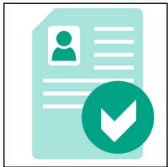
- Often individuals will need touch in order for them to be sure that the person they are communicating with shares their focus of attention.
- The principle communication systems may include, but are not limited to, touch cues, object symbols, braille, and sign language.
- Use hand-under-hand prompting. This gives the individual a sense of control and is respectful to their hands.
- The individual may have slower response times, so please allow more time for the individual to respond.

If you're not sure how to best communicate with an individual, it's never rude to ask how they prefer to express and receive information! For any questions on the Communication Corner, please contact the Special Populations Unit at RA-ODPDeafServices@pa.gov.

Not being able to speak is not the same as not having anything to say.

Free Employment Resources

Employment is a centerpiece of adulthood and must be available for every person. The benefits of employment for people with disabilities are significant and are the same as for people without disabilities. Find useful employment-focused resources on MyODP under the "Employment" link in the Resources tab. Information is organized by role (individual, families, providers, supports coordinators, etc.) Get free information including Charting the LifeCourse booklets, information from the Office of Vocation Rehabilitation, the ODP Comprehensive Employment Report, and webinars with partner organizations.

Paautism.org also provides an Employment Resource Collection on the ASERT website, offering help with everything from how to prepare a resume to tips for a job interview to how to request an accommodation.

Discounted ACRE Training Deadline Nears

Attention Employment Service Providers in the Consolidated, Community Living, or P/FDS Waivers: Individuals hired prior to 2019 who are pursuing an Association of Community Rehabilitation Educations (ACRE) Certificate of Achievement through the College of Employment Services (CES) must complete all of Part 1 and Part 2 **by July 1, 2019.** The discounted rate for Part 2 of the CES ACRE Basic Employment Certification Course is available through June 30.

Individuals hired after January 2019 who wish to pursue an ACRE Certificate of Achievement through CES must complete the course **within six months of their date of hire**. Credentials may also be obtained through the Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE) or through an ACRE organizational member that has ACRE-approved training. ODP Announcement 19-031 provides more details.

Information, Events, and Resources

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10am - 3pm, at Sugar House Casino Event Center, 1001 N. Delaware Ave., Philadelphia. Seating is limited and registration is required. Lunch is provided for residents of Philadelphia. There is a $15 fee for those living outside of Philadelphia. The event is sponsored by Vision for Equality. Contact ccostello@ visionforequality.org or call 1-267-702-1601 to register.

NDSC CONVENTION: The 47th Annual National Down Syndrome Congress Convention takes place in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, June 27 – 30, 2019. Learn more at NDSCcenter.org.

SAVE THE DATE: The Pennsylvania Dual Diagnosis Conference takes place Aug. 21-22 in Altoona. More details to come.

Testimony on Community Participation Supports Services

Continued from Page 3

individuals and families who rely on traditional prevocational and day habilitation services every day and don't want or are fearful of change, and the individuals and families are demanding a very different service system. Ahrens also stated. "We must support providers in their delivery of quality services of all models while meeting federal and state obligations to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Olmstead decision, the Employment First Act and directives from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)."

Summary of ODP Communications
Issued May 2019, With Links

MyODP
Training & Resource Center

What's New?

1. ODP 19-052: Health Risk Screen Tool Implementation
2. ODP 19-053: Announcing the Relaunch of Positive Approaches Journal
3. ODP 19-054: 55 Pa. Code Chapter 6400 Regulatory Compliance Guide Available for Public Comment
4. ODP 19-055: Statewide Quality Assessment and Improvement (QA&I) Process Meeting for Adult Autism Waiver (AAW) Supports Coordination Organizations (SCOs) and Providers
5. ODP 19-56: Incident Management (IM) Bulletin Available for Public Comment; Introduction to the IM Bulletin Webcast Available; IM Bulletin Listening Sessions Registration Available
6. ODP Newsletter May 2019
7. ODP Health Alert: Measles
8. Money Follows the Person (MFP) Initiative Dual Diagnosis Professional Conference Series: Supporting Healthy Sexuality
9. ODP 19-57: Special Populations Unit's Virtual Targeted Trainings Now Posted and Accessible on MyODP.org
10. ODP 19-58: Visual Gestural Communication Training for Harry M. Class Members' Individual Support Plan Teams
11. ODP 19-059: Clarification of the Health Risk Screening Tool (HRST) Implementation for AAW and ACAP
12. ODP 19-060: Now Available: Fair Hearing Request Form (Dp 458) Translated Into Spanish
13. ODP 19-061: Final Fee Schedule Rates and Fiscal Year Renewal Guidance for Community Participation Support
14. ODP 19-062: Revised Goals and Objectives Cheat Sheet for AAW and ACAP
15. ODP 19-063: IM4Q and NCI Reports Now Available

We'd love to hear from you.
Email us at RA-PWODP_OUTREACH@pa.gov with news or suggestions!