

ICF Transitions Update- April 23, 2015

Videoconference Held:

“Communicating with Individuals and Families about ICF Transitions”

On February 18, OPWDD held a Videoconference entitled “Communicating with Individuals and Families about ICF Transitions” with provider agencies that support individuals in larger ICFs. Agencies offered helpful insight regarding what families and advocates of the individuals they support want to know about ICF transitions. Providers expressed concern that many families believe their loved ones are going to be forced out of their homes, and they have created a list of things that could go wrong. They noted that families do not feel confident in the answers they have been receiving to date. Based on this discussion, OPWDD will be developing resources to assist both Regional and State Operations Offices and providers to communicate about ICF transitions.

ICF Conversion Guidance and Conversion Proposal Template – *Updates Coming*

Based on feedback from provider agencies, OPWDD will soon issue a revised version of the documents: Guidance for ICF Conversion with No Change in Capacity and the ICF Conversion/Transition Proposal Template. OPWDD will notify providers when the new documents are available on the website.

ICF Transition Plan Status Update

Since August 2013, 768 people have transitioned out of ICFs and into community-based residential settings. In 2015, OPWDD continues working to support providers to assist 1,237 more individuals to make the transition to community-based, integrated settings through relocations or ICF-to-IRA conversions. OPWDD is now examining ways to provide the fiscal support agencies will need to downsize and convert ICFs to fully integrated waiver service settings.

Residential Setting	Baseline Census (August 2013)	2015 Goals	Current Census (April 2, 2015)	Transitions Needed to Meet 2015 Goal
DCs	994	493	457	0
SO ICFs	659	504	503	0
VO ICFs	5,669	4,337	5,566	1,229

Home and Community Based Settings Guidance is Available

OPWDD has posted Administrative Memorandum- #2014-04 Home and Community Based Settings Preliminary Transition Plan Implementation (<http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/node/5760>) which offers residential providers further guidance on the expectations related to the federal Home and Community Based Services settings rule. Final regulations describing standards for all HCBS waiver service settings became effective March 17, 2014. OPWDD submitted an HCBS Settings Transition Plan to CMS which proposes a phased approach to achieving and demonstrating compliance with the standards over the next five years. Additional information about the new rule and the OPWDD Transition Plan can be found here: (http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd_services_supports/HCBS/home).

As providers prepare to assist individuals to transition from institutional settings (ICFs) to community settings in fulfillment of the ICF Transition Plan, it is important OPWDD assure that all ICF conversions in which individuals remain in their current location will constitute a true change in the way each person is supported to be a member of their community. The HCBS Settings Checklist (<http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/node/5744>) is a reference tool for providers to use to assess compliance with the new HCBS settings rules prior to converting the ICF to an IRA. ICF providers can also use this checklist to develop an action plan to work towards full compliance with the HCBS settings rules, which needs to occur no later than October 2018.

Success Stories

Many agencies across the United States are using the Money Follows the Person (MFP) Demonstration to support people with and without disabilities to lead integrated lives of their choosing. Below are links to a few remarkable success stories that demonstrate the kinds of community transitions occurring:

- “Finding Home (Kansas)” and “Gladys and Linda Return to the Community”
<http://www.medicaid.gov/state-resource-center/medicaid-state-technical-assistance/money-follows-the-person-tech-assist/mfp-success-stories.html>
- “Opening the Door for People with Disabilities and Older Adults to be Part of the Community” (<http://www.ncdhs.gov/dma/MoneyFollows/ClientStories.html>)

Frequently Asked Questions

How will staffing within the community-settings ensure that people are integrated, that they are getting the supports they need and that they are participating in the community?

Working together, the individual, their family members or advocates, the Regional Office (DDRO), and the service provider will identify the services needed to successfully support the individual in the new community setting. OPWDD’s Front Door staff will review requests of all plans for individuals to transition from ICF to HCBS Waiver services to make sure they are person-centered and provide community involvement. Further, OPWDD is exploring ways to ensure the funding agencies will need to fully support the individual when they move to the community. OPWDD also is studying a new Coordinated Assessment System (CAS) tool, which will eventually be used to assess each person’s needs for supports and services and will determine how much funding each person needs.

Helpful Links

To access more information on the Money Follows the Person Demonstration or Community Transitions, please visit the OPWDD website at <http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/transformation-agreement/mfp/home>

For questions and comments on OPWDD’s ICF Transition Plan or MFP, please contact OPWDD’s Community Transitions Mailbox Community.Transitions@opwdd.ny.gov