

## **Benefits and Services Design Team**

The purpose of the Benefits and Services Design Team is to make service and supports reform recommendations that enhance person-centered planning and service delivery, as well as to increase the system's capacity to serve people in the most appropriate community setting with an equitable level of resources based on the needs assessment process. The Benefits Design Team will focus in particular on the following:

- Residential services, community and behavioral supports for individuals with developmental disabilities transitioning from institutional settings;
- Reforms in services and supports for subpopulations with developmental disabilities;
- Enhancing supports for families; and
- Employment first services/supports

Through its work, the Benefits and Services Design Team will answer the following questions:

1. Consider all the services and supports currently available through OPWDD's system and other systems for people with developmental disabilities:
  - What are the services/supports that are generally working well for people?
  - What are the services/supports that are not working that need to be simplified, enhanced, and/or redesigned?
  - What services/supports could people with developmental disabilities take advantage of from other systems if obstacles/barriers were addressed/eliminated (e.g., can only be in one waiver at a time; can only have one targeted case management service; etc.)?
  - How can OPWDD build on the services that are working well by enhancing, consolidating, simplifying and/or clarifying services/service delivery to enhance value and quality? What changes in regulations and/or policies would be needed?
  - How can needs assessment and resource allocation reform facilitate greater access to supports and services?
  - What role will needs assessment have in determining the types of supports and services that individuals have access to?
  - How can self-direction and self-determination be expanded and enhanced?
2. What specialized residential, community, and behavioral services (and cross systems supports) are needed for people leaving institutional settings (e.g., intensive and/or crisis behavioral services) and how do these services differ from what is available today in the developmental disabilities service system?
3. What are the barriers for individuals with developmental disabilities to move in to their own homes and apartments? What services and supports need to be created, strengthened, and/or enhanced in order for more individuals to transition from group homes with 24-hour staffing to their own homes and apartments with less than 24-hour support?
4. What services/supports need to be created, strengthened and/or enhanced in order for children and other people with developmental disabilities to remain in the homes of their parents, family members and/or



relatives longer, particularly when primary caregivers are aging (particular focus on the provision of behavioral supports in family settings from a challenges and solutions perspective is needed)?

5. How can the People First Waiver better support and integrate services for children across systems (transition from early intervention to State Education services to adult services)?
6. How can the Family Support model be strengthened and enhanced in order to be a more viable option for more individuals with developmental disabilities as an alternative to group homes?
7. How can the People First Waiver encourage and promote employment first opportunities for people with developmental disabilities?
8. What, if any, crisis intervention/stabilization services should be made available under the People First Waiver for people with developmental disabilities? What are the circumstances under which these services could be accessed?
9. What are the circumstances under which cost-sharing arrangements should be considered/implemented for People First Waiver services/supports for people with developmental disabilities (e.g., parental deeming; adaptive and environmental modifications, etc.