



May 2, 2018

To: All ODDS Staff and Stakeholders

From: Lilia Teninty, Director, Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

It's time for an update on the Oregon Needs Assessment, a key component of the Compass Project.

In September, we [launched the Compass Project](#). We started that project because reorienting the I/DD system to focus on person-centered planning is big work. Many tasks need to happen in a specific sequence and be coordinated.

The Compass Project includes:

- reorienting our focus from the functional needs assessment and hours to person-centered planning
- developing and implementing the Oregon Needs Assessment
- various rate setting efforts
- policy changes
- waiver and K Plan revisions
- updates to the eXPRS system

Oregon Needs Assessment (ONA) development

In December, [I wrote](#) that we were putting a pause on some Compass Project items.

Stakeholders encouraged us to take an additional step with the ONA. They requested a third-party look at the analysis done by Mission Analytics (MA).

We agreed that this additional step would be helpful to the overall process. We had Oregon Health & Science University look at the reliability and validity analysis previously done by MA on the ONA.

OHSU's ONA review

OHSU has finished its review. They concluded the approach to development of the ONA and the testing methodology used were rooted in best practice and were appropriate.

The ONA has strong “face validity.” Face validity means the tool measures what it is supposed to measure. Items in the ONA were drawn from other tools commonly used for similar purposes. The ONA has undergone more rigorous testing than is typically the case for similar assessment tools used in other states.

However, OHSU concluded the “inter-rater reliability” of the tool is not yet established for children. Inter-rater reliability is when two trained assessors with the same information give similar scores. OHSU said not enough children were included in testing. They recommend addressing this gap through quality assurance during implementation.

What's next for the ONA

Our plan is to begin use of the ONA in a limited capacity on July 1, 2018. This means that there will be no changes to the services for people with I/DD at this time. Primarily, the ONA will be used to determine if the person continues to meet certain eligibility requirements and will provide valuable information for service planning. The timing will depend on approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services of our Waiver and K-Plan amendments.

To ensure that all assessments are objective and accurate, the ONA will be conducted by assessors who have specialized training on using the tool, and not a case manager.

We will continue to work with OHSU to set up robust quality assurance processes. One will be monitoring the ONA's overall performance. The other will be more testing for inter-rater reliability for children.

We are also continuing work with the contractor that is developing the process by which ONA will group people into service levels and allocate in-home hours.

ONA training begins soon

ONA training for assessors begins this month. It consists of classroom instruction and practice using the ONA tool. This course is required for the initial ONA assessor certification. ONA assessors will also take part in quarterly day-long trainings and monthly phone meetings.

Training for case managers begins in June. ONA training for Service Coordinators and Personal Agents will help them understand their role in the ONA. It will also help them begin to consider how to use the information from the ONA in service planning.

Registration is open on iLearn. Details were sent via email to Community Developmental Disabilities Programs and Brokerage directors on April 23.

We appreciate your cooperation and commitment as we continue to develop trainings and resources for all ONA assessors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lilia".

Lilia Teninty
Director
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

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