

Office of Developmental Disabilities

A message from Lilia Teninty, Director



April 7, 2017

To: All ODDS Staff and Stakeholders

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

Let's take a few moments to acknowledge an important milestone. Yesterday, we finished a pilot of the Oregon Needs Assessment (ONA). The ONA will help us achieve our vision of a system of supports that is easy to use and responsive to the strengths, needs and direction of the people and families who live as valued members of their community.

Getting to this point was a long process and involved hundreds of committed people. I would like to thank everyone for your dedication and participation.

ONA History

In 2013, the Oregon Legislature directed ODDS to implement a single, uniform assessment tool. We recognized that the tools our field use have similar questions which results in redundancy and extra work for the field.

In 2015, ODDS reported back to the Legislature that we had engaged a stakeholder group for the project and would be moving forward on a single needs assessment. This new assessment tool will be used for all individuals receiving supports in our program. It will be used to assess need, regardless of the setting that the person is or will be living in (group home, foster care, own home, etc.). The ONA will eventually take the place of the SIS, ANA, CNA and eventually the SNAP.

Since 2015, we have worked with Mission Analytics Group to develop the ONA. Their role is to improve and validate the combined assessment tool to meet the functional needs assessment requirement for a single normed and validated assessment tool for all service elements in ODDS.

The Pilot

It took several months to develop the tool and the training for the tool. The ReBAR assessment team worked through technical challenges, revisions to the assessment questions, and changes in strategies for implementing the pilot. They also conducted hundreds of assessments that will be used to test the validity and reliability of the ONA tool. Thank you, ReBAR team.

Individuals and families that agreed to participate in an additional assessment for the pilot made this possible. We greatly appreciate their involvement and feedback.

CDDPs and Brokerages undertook extra effort for the pilot. I want to be sure to acknowledge each one.

CDDPs: Klamath, Jackson, Coos, Curry, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Umatilla and Washington.

Brokerages: SDRI, Mentor, SORB, RCO, Full Access and ISN.

Other programs also volunteered, including CIIS and BLC.

The pilot began in November 2016. Five hundred assessments were conducted in order to get a sufficient number to validate. During that time, the participants in the pilot needed to complete both the regular assessment and the pilot ONA.

ODDS has been surveying the ONA participants during the pilot, and will do more surveys in the future. The survey respondents are letting us know about issues they discover and sharing their thoughts on needed changes, which will be invaluable for the next step.

Next Steps

Mission Analytics Group will now review the data with us. We will consider what should be removed, how to change questions to make them more clear, how to shorten the assessment, and develop appropriate reports that will display the results of each assessment in a useful format for planning.

ODDS will re-engage the stakeholder group to get user input on what parts of the assessment to refine or keep. We will also work with the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI) to develop clear criteria for how the tool can group people with similar needs.

Summary

When the ONA is fully implemented, assessment results will help inform the planning process, regardless of the setting a person is going into, moving us closer to our vision. The effort, dedication and time to get to that point will be worth it.

Again, thank you to everyone who participated in the ONA pilot. And, thanks in advance to those who will be involved in the next steps. Reducing the redundancy in our systems and streamlining processes will benefit us all, and most importantly, benefit the individuals we support.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Lilia

Lilia Teninty
Director
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

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