

Information Memorandum Transmittal Developmental Disabilities Services



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Number: DD-IM-22-004

Issue date: 1/13/2022

Topic: Developmental Disabilities

Due date:

Subject: Oregon's Statewide First Episode Psychosis Program, Early Assessment and Support Alliance (EASA)

Applies to (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All ODHS Employees | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging: {Select type} | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aging and People with Disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Self Sufficiency Programs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children's Intensive In Home Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County DD Program Managers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support Service Brokerage Directors | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children's Residential Services | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Child Welfare Programs | |

Message:

Effective January 1, 2022, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) has removed the IQ requirement from the EASA eligibility criteria. This means IQ is no longer a consideration when assessing eligibility for any youth and young adult aged 12 to 25 who is experiencing first episode psychosis symptoms. All other criteria remain.

What is EASA?

The Early Assessment and Support Alliance (EASA) is Oregon's statewide first episode psychosis program. The program provides comprehensive psychosis care and care linkages for up to two years for individuals who have developed new psychotic symptoms consistent with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder. EASA care is available without regard to funding source, and provides assessment, treatment, family support and coordinated vocational support.

Why is this happening?

The goal of the statewide EASA program is to serve all youth and young adults experiencing first episode psychosis. Previously, young people with an IQ of less than 70 could not access services even if they met all other criteria for the EASA program.

This action aligns with OHA’s mission to move towards a more equitable health system.

If a youth or young adult with an intellectual or developmental disability meets all other EASA criteria and is screened into an EASA program, EASA services will not replace I/DD services, but will supplement and support I/DD services.

To learn more:

View these resources on the EASA website:

- [Services offered with the EASA program](#)
- [What is Psychosis?](#)
- [Contacts for Local EASA Sites](#)

Communication/training:

This transmittal will be discussed during the next Monthly Transmittal Review. Please send questions in advance to ODDS.Questions@dhsoha.state.or.us.

The Monthly Transmittal Review is held the second Wednesday of every month at 2 pm using the Zoom platform. Please register in advance for these meetings:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlsc-qvqD8iGURx5OQk8TAdIS6Arg9ZAf4>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing an appointment and information about joining the meeting. American Sign Language (ASL) and live captioning will be provided. To request other accommodations or languages, please send an email to ODDS.Questions@dhsoha.state.or.us at least three business days prior to the meeting.

If you have any questions about this information, contact:

Contact(s): Carrie Salehiamin	
Phone:	Fax:
Email: carrie.a.salehiamin@dhsoha.state.or.us	