

ODP News

January 2018



Information, Upcoming Events, and Training

Autism Periodic Risk Evaluation Updates Explained

The Bureau of Autism Services released a [notice](#) detailing requirements on Periodic Risk Evaluations, trainings on the evaluations and support available on the evaluations.

Transition Period Extended re: Enhanced Services

The transition period for providers and Support Service Professionals (SSPs) of enhanced Respite, In-Home and Community Support and Community Participation Support to meet the new enhanced service qualifications outlined in the approved waivers has been extended to March 31.

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ODP Kicks Off 2018

We want to thank Diana Fishlock for her time at the Office of Developmental Programs, and especially thank her for getting out the monthly newsletter to inform our stakeholders about programs, events, and resources.



DIANA FISHLOCK

In September, Diana accepted a new role as Field Representative with the PA Treasury Department, helping to promote its [PA ABLE Savings Program](#).

In her absence, the newsletter has had a hiatus. We are happy to say that the newsletter is back and we are planning to be back on our regular schedule. Lynn Miller now will help create the ODP monthly newsletter. She joins the staff with an extensive background in communications and media relations as a former marketing specialist and journalist.



LYNN MILLER

We are also excited to announce that registration is open for the Everyday Lives Conference, Jan. 9-11, at Hershey Lodge. The three-day event features experts on self-advocacy, supporting families, employment, sexuality, community living and more — all aiding in the common goal of helping all people achieve everyday lives.

You can register online until Monday at 5 p.m. There will be on-site registration Tuesday, starting at 8 a.m. Details at EverydayLives.org.

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Priced Out Report on Housing for People with Disabilities

The Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) and the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Housing Task Force have released [the 2017 edition of Priced Out](#), a national rental housing report documenting the housing affordability crisis affecting the nation's nonelderly people with significant disabilities.

PADES Summit held

Governor Wolf's Cabinet for People with Disabilities, with the departments of Human Services, Education, and Labor & Industry, held the sixth Pennsylvania Disability Employment and Empowerment Summit ([PADES](#)) in King of Prussia, December 6th and 7th, 2017. The event attracted nearly 700 people. Attendees varied from individuals seeking employment, students desiring to learn more, and employers discussing ways to become more inclusive. The summit featured 20 breakout sessions and four

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The Year in Review: 2017

We welcome the new year with enthusiasm, bolstered by the accomplishments of 2017, and look forward to continuing to fulfill our Everyday Lives vision.

Reflecting
on 2017



Following are key highlights from the past year:

- Redesigned and approved renewal of the Person/Family Directed Support Waiver and Consolidated Waivers, which expanded Life Sharing to families, launched the new Supported Living Service, and expanded new employment services.
- Expanded all waivers and targeted service management to serve people with autism (expanded to 1500 people)
- Added \$400 million to the program
- Established a new fee schedule for services
- Redesigned the quality assurance system
- Changes to acuity-based rates in residential, integrated clinical services into residential services
- 2,137 DSPs and 211 professionals completed the online Support Standardized Curriculum course and are certified
- The College of Direct Support experienced a 13% growth in use, reaching nearly 60,000.
- There are 239 people certified in quality management.
- Expanded services for 820 graduates through P/FDS and 50 through AWA waiver.

*If your organization is hosting webinars
that anyone can attend,
please send information to
RA-PWODP_OUTREACH@pa.gov*

Information, Upcoming Events, and Training

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speakers. Attendees also had the opportunity to interact with potential employees at the job fair and networking with lead exhibitors in various related fields. A 2018 Summit is expected to be held in the fall.

ASERT Offers Map of Self-Advocacy & Support Groups

The ASERT Resource Center recently featured an expanded [self-advocacy contact map](#) on its website (adding to it 25 new support and self-advocacy groups across the state). Visit PaAutism.org for more information.

Check Out MyODP

You can find an up-to-date calendar of disability-related trainings and events throughout Pennsylvania by at MyODP.org. You'll find a collection of webinars, trainings, ODP communications, success stories, publications, and more.



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

SPeCTRUM 2.0: BAS Autism Competency Training

The Office of Developmental Programs, Bureau of Autism Services is pleased to announce the availability of the first two modules within the newly developed SPeCTRUM 2.0: BAS Autism Competency Training. This training is designed as a free online resource for professionals who are supporting individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their families.



(Please note that this is NOT the virtual SPeCTRUM training course that is currently required for AAW or ACAP staff prior to enrolling as a provider and prior to providing services.)

This multi-module training was developed by ODP's Pennsylvania Bureau of Autism Services (BAS) in conjunction with the Autism Services, Education, Resources & Training (ASERT) Collaborative.

This online course is hosted within the [MyODP Training & Resource Center](#). To view the modules, create a free account and log in prior to beginning the course.

SPeCTRUM 2.0 – Module 1: Bureau of Autism Services' Blueprint for Supporting People with Autism provides an overview of the Bureau of Autism Services' Mission, Principles, and Values. In addition, essential dimensions in understanding autism are reviewed in an effort to provide a framework of successful supports for individuals with autism. This module will take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

SPeCTRUM 2.0 – Module 2: An Introduction to Autism discusses the core deficits in individuals with autism. Co-occurring mental and physical conditions, as they present in an adult, are emphasized. Finally, how those deficits can change dependent on the environment is illustrated. This module will take approximately 60 minutes to complete.

For questions, please email RA-BASTrainings@pa.gov.

Community Living Waiver Approved

The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) is pleased to announce that the new Community Living Waiver has been approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The Community Living Waiver was approved by CMS on Wednesday, December 20, 2017, and effective January 1, 2018.

The Community Living Waiver was developed in accordance with the enacted budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018, which provided funding for the development and implementation of a new intermediate waiver that will provide services to approximately 1,000 individuals with an intellectual disability or autism, as well as children under age 9 with a developmental disability who have a high probability of resulting in an intellectual disability or autism.

The Community Living Waiver will support individuals to live in their homes and communities through the provision of a variety of services that promote community involvement, employment, communication, self-direction, choice, and control.

The Community Living Waiver closely resembles the current Person/Family Directed Support Waiver, with these notable differences:

- There is a limit of \$70,000 per person per fiscal year for Community Living Waiver services. All waiver services are included in the limit, with an exception for Supports Coordination services.
- Life Sharing services will be available at needs group levels 1 and 2 and for individuals who need less than 30 hours per week of service on average.
- Supported Living services will be available at Needs Group levels 1 and 2.
- Vehicle accessibility adaptations will be limited to \$20,000 during a 10-year period.

As communicated in [ODP Announcement 116-17](#), the Community Living Waiver was submitted to CMS on October 3, 2017. Since that time, ODP has been engaged in ongoing discussions with CMS. Changes have been made to the final approved Community Living Waiver based on those discussions. The full approved Community Living Waiver is available at:

<http://www.dhs.pa.gov/learnaboutdhs/waiverinformation/communitylivingwaiver/index.htm>

The enrollment process for the Community Living Waiver is the same as the enrollment process for the Consolidated and Person/Family Directed Support Waivers. The Administrative Entities are responsible for determining who will be enrolled in the Community Living Waiver.

Questions about this communication should be directed to the appropriate Office of Developmental Programs Regional Office.

This means more people living in the community, working in the community, and increased social networks, making everyday life real.



Support Coordinator marks more than three decades of service

Connie Herman is a support coordinator with Cumberland/Perry mental Health, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Offices. Starting in the human service field after graduating college and now



CONNIE HERMAN

reaching her 31st year of service, she has seen a great deal of change. She remembers the early years in institutions when doors were locked and thousands of people were living away from the community. She notes how conditions in the institutions have changed for the better over the years –

changes she’s witnessed as she helped people move to a new life in the community.

Connie noted that change is a constant in life and sometimes very unexpected, requiring creativity on

the part of a support coordinator.

One of Connie’s greatest successes came about when four men who shared a house were notified that their lease would not be renewed. The men and their families had 60 days to find a new living arrangement. “It started out as

alarming – families were fearful, saying, ‘what are we going to do?’ The men were in a secure situation, then boom! Two months’ notice,” Connie recalled.

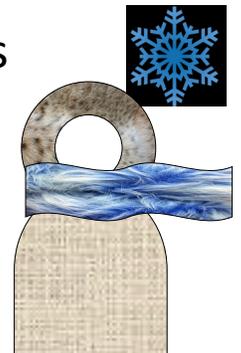
“The families were very proactive in securing independent living arrangements and my role was primarily to ensure a smooth move by transitioning existing supports and adding any new services to help promote their independence,” Connie said. The men were able to find four apartments. They are all happy in their new apartments, getting the supports they need.

Health Alert: 2018 Extreme-Cold Weather Precautions

With current record-breaking cold weather and snow affecting parts of Pennsylvania, the Office of Developmental Programs is sending this Health Alert as a reminder to all, and particularly to CEOs and Agency Administrators of residential programs, to ensure that necessary precautions are in place to prevent cold-weather-related health risks.

In addition to the precautions available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (See: [Extreme Cold: A Prevention Guide to Promote Your Personal Health and Safety](#)), please check that your sites’ heating systems are functioning properly, that your buildings are secure, and emergency intervention/provisions are in place if needed. Confirm that vehicles are ready to transport people when necessary and that emergency backups are in place. Foremost, the best precaution is to stay indoors whenever possible.

Exposure to the cold for too long can cause serious health problems. Hypothermia and frostbite are the most common cold related health problems. Please use the helpful [CDC infographic on Hypothermia & Frostbite](#) for quick reference.





Summary of ODP Communications Issued Through December 2017

Please note, with the start of a new calendar year, the numbering format for ODP Communications will start with 001-18.

1. [ODP Communication 126-17](#) : CMS Approves the Targeted Support Management State Plan Amendment Effective August 20, 2017
2. [ODP Communication 127-17](#) : Instructions for Updating ISPs Due to Changes in Select Agency With Choice Fee Schedule Rates
3. [ODP Communication 128-17](#) : Provider Eligibility Program (PEP) Code for Community Living Waiver Added to Existing Provider Enrollments
4. [ODP Communication 129-17](#) : Upcoming Certified Employment Support Professional (CESP) Credential Examinations
5. [ODP Communication 130-17](#) : Transition Time Extended for Compliance with Provider Qualifications for Enhanced Respite, In-Home and Community Support and Community Participation Supports
6. [ODP Communication 131-17](#) : NOW AVAILABLE: Community Living Waiver Approved by CMS Effective January 1, 2018
7. [ODP Communication 132-17](#) : Certified Investigator Recertification Course Transitioning to MyODP

Please send suggestions and articles of interest to Lynn Miller at

c-lymiller@pa.gov