



COMMISSIONER
Jon Weizenbaum

July 14, 2016

To: Case Management Agencies (CMAs)
Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS) Providers
Deaf Blind Multiple Disabilities (DBMD) Providers
Home and Community-based Services (HCS) Program Providers
Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID)
Local Intellectual and Developmental Disability Authorities (LIDDAs)
Texas Home Living (TxHmL) Program Providers

Subject: Information Letter No. 16-23
IDD Assessment Project - Phase One Implementation

The purpose of this information letter (IL) is to inform the LIDDAs, CMAs, and program providers for HCS, TxHmL, CLASS, DBMD and ICF/IID about the implementation of phase one of the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Assessment project (the project).

IDD Assessment Project – Phase One Implementation

Section 3.01 of Senate Bill (S.B.) 7, 83rd Legislature, Regular Session, 2013, directs the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) to develop and implement a comprehensive assessment instrument and resource allocation process for individuals with IDD. DADS must ensure each individual with IDD receives the type, intensity, and range of services that are both appropriate and available, based on the functional needs of the individual, if the individual receives services through a Medicaid waiver program, an ICF/IID program, or a state operated ICF/IID.

Implementation activities initiated in response to S.B. 7, Section 3.01, included research into nationally recognized comprehensive assessment instruments for individuals with IDD; completion of a survey of external stakeholders; and interviews with agencies in other states about their respective assessment instruments. DADS published a request for information seeking information from potential contractors about their assessment instruments or inter-related groups of assessment instruments for populations including individuals with IDD. Input was also solicited from the S.B. 7 Systems Redesign Advisory Committee (SRAC) and the S.B. 7 SRAC IDD Assessment Subcommittee.

DADS selected the international Resident Assessment Instrument (interRAI) Intellectual Disability (ID) Assessment for phase one of the project. The project requires a contractor to automate and complete the interRAI ID Assessment on a sample population in an identified geographical region.

A request for proposals to solicit vendors to implement phase one of the project will be released in the near future.

Phase One Design Assumptions:

The identified geographical areas or sites:

- Service areas covered by Tarrant County and Lakes Regional LIDDAs. These LIDDAs were identified based on the following criteria:
 - catchment areas include both urban and rural settings;
 - service provision crosses multiple waiver programs and ICFs/IID;
 - focus the pilot on a more localized setting to minimize costs associated with travel and assessor accommodations, and increase productivity within limited timeframes
- Denton State Supported Living Center, to include individuals with higher medical needs; and
- Mexia State Supported Living Center, to include individuals with higher behavioral support needs.

Depending on the number of participants, the sample may be expanded into other areas of the state to ensure an adequate sample is obtained.

The identified samples are:

- participants who currently receive services from HCS, TxHmL, CLASS, DBMD, ICFs/IID or State Supported Living Centers (SSLCs);
- new admissions to SSLCs and Medicaid waivers;
 - including individuals transitioning from SSLCs and nursing facilities into the Medicaid waivers,
 - excluding restoration commitments, and
- participants from both urban and rural areas.

General implementation requirements:

- Participation is voluntary and an individual and/or the LAR may choose to opt out of having the interRAI ID assessment completed.
- The assessment must be completed in the most appropriate setting for the individual.
- The completed interRAI ID assessment will be compared to the current required assessment-Inventory for Client and Agency Planning (ICAP) or Scales for Independent Behavior – Revised (SIB-R) - for each participant in phase one.
- Planning and resource allocation processes will remain unchanged.
- If the current assessment being used (ICAP, SIB-R) is due, either because of a change in status or regularly scheduled re-assessment, the interRAI must be completed within 30 days of the current assessment completion date.
- Statewide roll out of an assessment instrument is dependent on the outcome of a third party evaluation of the results of phase one.

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Additional information on specific implementation activities will be provided to those providers participating in phase one as implementation moves forward.

For questions about this letter, please contact DADS at IDD.Assessment@dads.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

S. Michelle Martin
Director
Center for Policy and Innovation

[signature on file]

Elisa J. Garza
Assistant Commissioner
Access and Intake