Division of Developmental Disabilities:
Analysis of How Services Are Prioritized

Proposed Final Report to the
Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee
July 31, 2007
Cynthia L. Forland

Presentation Overview

• Study Mandate

• What JLARC found and recommends:
  – Limited legislative direction
  – Primary Division initiatives scheduled to be implemented soon
  – Shortcomings in assessing clients not receiving paid services
Study Mandated by 2006 Supplemental Operating Budget

JLARC “to conduct a review of how the Department of Social and Health Services Division of Developmental Disabilities prioritizes and allocates services.”

Limited Legislative Direction for Prioritizing Services

- No clear priorities in permanent state law
- Specific entitlement services establish a type of priority (MPC, institutions)
- Priorities attached to particular allocations of funding for specific types of services in State Operating Budgets
Full Assessment Being Implemented Last Month

1 Support Assessment: What does an individual need?

Clients not authorized for paid service

2 Service Level Assessment: What will meet those needs?

Case management services only

3 Individual Support Plan: How will those needs be met?

Information System Planned To Be Implemented in March 2008

Case Management Information System (CMIS) is planned to:
- Provide centralized information system to help staff assist clients and plan for future needs
- Combine functions of several current separate information systems
Primary Initiatives To Be Implemented Soon

Recommendation 1:
The Department of Social and Health Services should provide a report to the Legislature by January 2009 on implementation of its two primary initiatives.

DSHS and OFM concur

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Mini-Assessments of 34% of Clients Not Receiving Paid Services

- Division changed its priorities for completing assessments to address backlog in its system
- Division did not set up mechanism for tracking priorities
- Division will be continuing to assess remaining clients not receiving paid services
Division Ineffectively Managing Client Mini-Assessment Process

Recommendation 2:
The Division of Developmental Disabilities should:

− Establish a clear set of priorities for case managers to follow in assessing the remaining clients; and
− Track which of the specific priorities apply to each client.

DSHS and OFM concur

Division Combines Two Definitions of “High Level of Need”

Clients Going Through Process 3,703 (as of Feb 2007)

Enrolled in Medicaid? No

No Mini-Assessment Tool 2,954

High Level of Need 2,012

Yes

No Mini-Assessment Tool 749

High Level of Need 749
Client Assessment Results Are Not Clearly Identified

Recommendation 3:
The Division of Developmental Disabilities should clearly distinguish clients who are likely eligible for the Medicaid Personal Care program from clients whose Mini-Assessment score identifies their high level of need.

**OFM concurs**

**DSHS partially concurs**

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