

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES





September 14, 2017

Patrick O'Donnell, Clerk of the Legislature
State Capitol, Room 2018
P.O. Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

Dear Mr. O'Donnell:

Pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statute 81-3133.02(2), the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) submits this progress report toward its key goals identified within the Business Plan over the 2016-2017 state fiscal year. Over the past two years, DDD has experienced significant changes in leadership structure. Courtney Miller was appointed by Governor Pete Ricketts as the new Director for DDD effective December 7, 2015. Several key leadership positions were also established within the 2016-2017 state fiscal year. Specific areas of targeted focus for DDD within our Community Based Services, identified in the 2016-2017 Health and Human Services (HHS) Business Plan, are listed below.

1. Cross-Division Solutions Team

- DDD identified key staff members to participate in monthly, and as needed, team meetings to problem solve both case-specific issues, as well as systemic issues. Membership on this internally established committee included representatives from the Divisions of DD, Public Health, Children & Family Services, Medicaid and Long-Term Care and Behavioral Health.
- The team has been successful in providing solutions-oriented results to case specific issues, as well as identify and work on system barriers across Divisions.

2. Developmental Disabilities Registry of Unmet Needs

- A thorough review was completed in SFY '16-'17 of all individuals who were listed on the registry of unmet needs. This resulted in a more useful tool for planning and identification of individuals who were actually waiting for a service and would accept if offered today, as well as a listing of others who identified a future need for the Division.
- A clear distinction of a Registry (not requesting services today) and Waiting List (would accept services today, if offered) has resulted in current numbers showing: 1,060 on the Registry and 2,056 on the Waiting List.

3. Improve Utilization of Therap

- Therap is DDD's web-based case management system. Several enhancements were made to the Therap system in SFY '16-'17 that resulted in more efficient and robust data.

4. Developmental Disabilities Eligibility Determination

- DDD revised the application for DD services. A new electronic application was established in the ACCESSNebraska system to streamline an applicant's experience when applying for multiple services from DDD, Medicaid and Long-Term Care and Economic Assistance programs.
- DDD also streamlined the eligibility determination process. This resulted in the average determination timeframe reducing to 14 business days.

DDD achieved 100% of the Business Plan goals during SFY '16-'17. This was a great accomplishment for the Division.

In addition, DDD also serves individuals who have been committed to the care and custody of HHS under the Developmental Disabilities Court-Ordered Custody Act. Pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statute 71-1134, a separate annual report encompasses the details for this population.

The other program population served by DDD, are individuals residing at the Beatrice State Developmental Center (BSDC). The census at BSDC is 110 as of 9/14/2017. Legislative Bill 895, signed into law on April 7, 2016, required the Division to develop a comprehensive plan for BSDC and the Bridges program. The full report was submitted to the Legislature on June 1, 2017 and is available at:

http://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/105/PDF/Agencies/Health_and_Human_Services_Department_of/636_2_0170602-164040.pdf

DDD is making significant progress towards meeting our identified goals. There is plenty of work ahead of us on our journey of serving one of Nebraska's most vulnerable populations. I am pleased with the enthusiasm and dedication of our team, and look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,



Courtney Miller Director
Division of Developmental Disabilities
Department of Health and Human Services