ODP News

April 2017

Information,
Upcoming Events,
and Training

Renewals of the
Consolidated and
P/FDS Waivers are
Available Online

ODP submitted the renewals for the Consolidated and P/FDS waivers to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on April 1, 2017. This is the major way we fund our services. They are available to view on the Department of Human Services’ website, along with a side-by-side comparison of substantive changes made as a result of public comment.

ODP will inform all stakeholders when CMS has officially approved the waiver renewals and will make the approved waivers available at that time.

We expect the waivers to become effective July 1, 2017.

ODP to Host Webinars for Individuals and Families to Learn More About PA ABLE Savings Accounts

Please join us for webinars at noon and 6 p.m. on Thursday May 25 about PA ABLE. Preregistration is required. ABLE is a new, low-cost saving program that allows people with disabilities and their families to have greater control of their finances and to plan for a more financially secure future. Saving with a PA ABLE account helps people to save for a range of expenses while maintaining their government benefits. Topics will include: eligibility, tax benefits, and opening the accounts.

The webinars will be recorded and will be available on MyODP.org. Anyone who wants to attend additional or alternate webinars can see more webinar times on the PA ABLE website.

“I know Pennsylvania ABLE will allow people with Down syndrome and other people with disabilities to achieve their hopes and dreams,” Sara Wolff said at a PA ABLE kick-off ceremony April 3 in the Capitol Rotunda. She’s an advocate who helped educate Congress about the need for the ABLE act, the groundbreaking law that allows states to create tax-advantaged savings accounts to cover qualified expenses.
Artists Can Enter “Visions of Pennsylvania” Statewide Art Contest

Pennsylvania has launched its third statewide art contest for artists with a disability, Art: the Universal Language. This year’s theme will be Visions of Pennsylvania.

Artists of all ages and media are encouraged to share their vision and interpretation of Pennsylvania. Deadline for submitting materials is July 14, 2017.

PA Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program Community of Practice Offers Webinars

The Pennsylvania Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program Community of Practice Webinar Series will be held the fourth Tuesday of the month through August, at 2 p.m. Topics will be:

- May 23: Employment Networks & Ticket to Work
- June 27: Benefits Planning
- July 25: Mental Health
- August 22: Employer Engagement

Virtual Training and Resources Teach About Adult Autism Waiver Goal Attainment Scaling Charts

By July 2017 each agency that is providing an Adult Autism Waiver service that develops, tracks, and reports progress on goals and objectives must identify at least one person to complete the Goal Attainment Scaling (GAS) course. GAS is an individualized approach for establishing and measuring the attainment of goals for people with varying levels of disability and support needs. Training and resources are available on MyODP.org.

Send questions to RA-basprovidersupport@pa.gov

Professionals Can Register for the 10th Annual PA Autism Training Conference

The 10th Annual Pennsylvania Autism Training Conference (PATC), “Delivering Autism Services in Pennsylvania: Practical Strategies & Tools” will be June 6-8, 2017 at Eden Resort Inn & Suites in Lancaster. The conference is to provide professionals with tools to support individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder. It will focus on addressing real-life situations.

Register on MyODP by May 31 for a lower registration fee than the walk-in rate.

Actors Question “Special Needs’ Term in Video

“Glee” actress Lauren Potter stars with other actors and actresses in "Not Special Needs," a light-hearted video that asks whether people with Down syndrome really have special needs. “What we really need is education, jobs, and opportunities, friends and some love, just like everybody else,” she says. “Are these needs special?”
ODP Publishes Updated AAW Supports & Services Directory

The most recent Adult Autism Waiver Supports & Services Directory has been published. It is posted on MyODP.org.

Mark Your Calendar for Independent Monitoring for Quality (IM4Q) Annual Training

This year’s IM4Q Statewide Training will be July 26 and 27 at the Harrisburg Hilton and Towers.

Registration will be $70 per person. Supports Coordinators can buy one, get one free. More information to come.

ODP Updates the Certified Investigator’s Manual


BAS conducted a Virtual Targeted Training in February, presenting and discussing the tool.

Wolf Administration Works to Expand Vanpool Options for Workers, Assist Persons with Disabilities

In support of the Employment First initiative to help people with disabilities find employment, Governor Wolf and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) announced a new Vanpool Incentive Program to create vanpools across the state that would provide a lower-cost alternative for people to commute to competitive jobs. The vanpools would be open to people with and without disabilities.

“Transportation access can be a deciding factor in whether someone is able to work, so anything we can do to expand options is good for Pennsylvanians,” Governor Wolf said. “No matter their abilities, people should have access to jobs that pay.”

Beginning in 2017-18, vanpools would operate from four to seven days per week, depending on riders’ needs for transportation to and from jobs. Vanpool riders will pay a minimum of $25 per month, with the final cost determined by providers. A member of each vanpool would drive, usually to and from central locations, such as eight people from one town who work in the same building.

The program will invest up to $1 million annually and is open to government entities, non-profit entities, and transportation companies. ADA-accessible vanpools would be eligible for a monthly subsidy up to $1,200 per van, and would be eligible for an ongoing $400-per-month subsidy. Participants would also be eligible for state investments to cover the cost to convert a van to be ADA-accessible.

When officially opened in May, the application period will be announced via the Pennsylvania Bulletin. PennDOT expects to select the first vanpool program participants in the 2017-18 state fiscal year. Agencies or providers interested in the program may email BPTVanPool@pa.gov for more information.
At Work and in Competitions, Adam Catlin Wins People Over With His Friendliness and Determination

Adam Catlin’s advice to others is: “Don’t let your disabilities hold you back.”

Adam, 29, has been a greeter at the Selinsgrove Walmart for 9 years. The whole community knows him because he’s so cheerful to everyone who comes into the store, especially children. “He cannot go anywhere else in public without children pointing at him and gasping and saying ‘There's Adam!’” his mother, Holly, said.

He is so loyal to his job that he hates to even step foot in another store or take a day off. If he is off work for a few days, shoppers who Holly doesn’t even know will message her asking whether he is OK.

Adam is also the 114 lb. Special Olympics bench press national champion. As a child, Adam lacked the physical ability to play sports with his friends. He excels at power lifting and he loves to compete. He’s progressed from benching 85 lbs. to nearly 200 lbs., gaining balance, coordination, and confidence along the way.

Adam, who has cerebral palsy, pushes himself tremendously without losing his upbeat attitude, in spite of his legal blindness, heart attacks, and multiple surgeries. “He had one surgery where they cut both legs off below the knee and reattached them to make them straighter. He just went through that whole thing with no complaining,” his mother said.

He makes friends easily whether he’s working or lifting weights because he’s so cheerful and determined.

ODP Gives Guidance on Including NPIs on Claims

Providers need to include the National Provider Index Number (NPI) of the ordering or prescribing provider on home health, nursing, and therapy claims. This rule has been in effect since April 2016. ODP provides guidance on how to include NPIs.

Webinar Available for Providers of Waivers Services and Targeted Services Management on Claim and Service Documentation

MyODP has posted an April 5 webinar that ODP held to review the draft bulletin and technical guide intended to give guidance about the Department of Human Service’s regulations and procedures for claim and service documentation requirements for providers of waivers services and Targeted Services Management (TSM).

Home and Community-Based Q&A Posted

Home and Community-Based Services Regulation Questions and Answers provides clarification on provider requirements to be eligible to receive federal financial participation.

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Toolkits Can Help Individuals and Families Keep Direct Support Professionals

ODP has posted two toolkits to help individuals and families to find, choose, and keep great direct support professionals (DSPs). One toolkit is for individuals and one is for families.

MyODP Has Quality Management Planning Resources

MyODP’s Quality Management Planning and Implementation Documents subcategory now contains resources, templates, and examples that support ODP’s Quality Management Strategy.

ODP Contact Mailbox List Posted for Stakeholders

The Contact ODP Resource Accounts Page on MyODP.org lists email boxes dedicated to specific groups or processes. The list provides stakeholders with specified information on who they can contact with their questions, suggestions, or issues.

Autism Acceptance Month 2017

Dani Killinger wants to travel the world, save wildlife, and design tattoos. “I don’t believe in limitations,” said Killinger, a 27-year-old student at Harrisburg Area Community College. She likes motorcycles and snakes. She wants to bungee jump and study dinosaur bones and make a living as an artist-writer. “I’m living my life to the fullest,” she said.

Report Any Primary Day Voting Problems

Persons with disabilities who need information or encounter problems at their polling place can contact the Disability Rights Pennsylvania (DRP) hotline on Primary Election Day, which is May 16 in Pennsylvania.

Report problems to one or more of the following:

- The DRP Primary Election Day hotline number is: 717-839-5227. The email is: electionday@disabilityrightspa.org.
- The Department of State also has a voter hotline: 877-868-3772.
- The Election Protection Hotline is 866-687-8683.
- After Election Day, contact Disability Rights Pennsylvania at: 800-692-7443 (voice), 877-375-7139 (TDD), 717-236-0192 (fax), or intake@disabilityrightspa.org.
Save the Date for PA’s Dual Diagnosis Conference

Pennsylvania’s Dual Diagnosis Conference, “Positive Opportunities: Supporting the Whole Person,” will be July 20 and 21, 2017 at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center in State College. The conference is for clinicians supporting individuals with complex needs. Full conference agenda and registration information will be coming soon.

Pathways to Employment: Tool is Available Online for Autism Program Supports Coordinators

Adult Autism Waiver (AAW) and Adult Community Autism Program (ACAP) Supports Coordinators (SC), and SC Supervisors can use ODP’s Bureau of Autism Services’ (BAS) Pathways to Employment Tool to guide conversations about the importance of employment as the first option for participants.

Right to be Free from Abuse Handout is Reissued and Being Reviewed

As part of ODP’s efforts to ensure health and safety and to comply with ODP policy prohibiting abuse, neglect, or exploitation, ODP has reissued the “Right to be Free from Abuse Notification Handout” and posted it on MyODP.org. The handout is under review and might be revised.

Philadelphia Autism Project Will Hold Free Conference on May 12

Registration is open for the Philadelphia Autism Project Conference, “Fostering Connections: Living, Working and Building Relationships.” This free conference will be May 12, 2017 at Community Behavioral Health in Philadelphia. Topics will include: Employment; Transportation; Building Relationships, and Community Connections. Pre-registration is required.

Pre-registration can be directed to (215) 686-3450 or (215) 571-3209 or by email: phillyap@drexel.edu

Draft Documents Posted Regarding Waiver Renewal Rate Methodology

ODP is in the process of renewing the Consolidated and Person/Family Directed Support (P/FDS) waivers for individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism. The renewals will be effective July 1, 2017. ODP is sharing the draft documents regarding: the methodology for determining geographical areas; geographical area analysis; residential eligible assumption log; residential ineligible assumption log; non-residential assumption log; and participant-directed services assumption log.

The documents are for information only. When these documents are in their final form there will be opportunities for public comment.