

## **SIS™ UPDATE**

### **JULY 28, 2008**

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#### **SIS FORGES ONWARD!**

ODP is pleased to announce that we are making great progress as the SIS implementation continues to forge onward. Ascend has completed hundreds of assessments and hundreds more are scheduled. We continue to resolve problems as they occur and we have learned much along the way. Hopefully, we won't make the same mistake twice! We have had many good experiences and good feedback as people see the difference between the SIS and other assessment tools.

The SIS is a very complex tool and some families and respondents have experienced some confusion about the focus of the SIS and the way responses to the questions are rated by the assessors. Ascend has created a handout that focuses on some of the issues that have been presented to ODP and Ascend for clarity. I think you will find this handout to be very informative and a valuable resource. (Attachment)

The Office of Developmental Programs is proud of our commitment to meeting the needs of the individuals we serve consistently and equitably. We thank all of you for making this commitment a reality. Thank you for your perseverance, diligence and your cooperation. Without you, our efforts would be futile.

#### **ASSESSOR STATUS**

Ascend presently has 32 assessors who have completed the American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) training and have been approved to complete SIS assessments. These individuals are geographically located across the Commonwealth, so assessments are occurring in all areas of Pennsylvania.

Ascend has four individuals who attained AAIDD trainer status. These individuals are now qualified to train new assessors. With the addition of these trainers, Ascend will be able to schedule practice assessments for one or two assessors at a time as part of the AAIDD qualification process.

Currently, there are three assessors who need to complete some practice assessments so they may complete their AAIDD approved training requirements. To that end, Ascend is looking for respondents in Butler County, Philadelphia County, and Bucks County. If you would like to volunteer or know of anyone who would like to do, please contact Julie Cantrell of Ascend at 615-620-3422 or you may email her at [JCantrell@Ascendami.com](mailto:JCantrell@Ascendami.com). The \$25 honorarium will continue for individuals, family members, and friends who wish to participate in these training assessments.

## **RESPONDENTS**

At least 2 respondents, preferably 3 who have known the individual for at least 3 months and can describe in a very detailed way the individual's day-to-day support needs are needed for each assessment and practice assessment. The respondent may be the individual, family members, friends, direct support workers, other staff, or the SC. AAIDD is creating a handout on respondents. I will forward this to all of you when it becomes available.

## **ASSESSMENTS**

Scheduling of assessments continues in all areas of the state. At this time, we are targeting individuals who are currently being served in both waivers. In a few weeks, Ascend will also begin scheduling assessments for individuals from the initiatives waiting list for 2008-09. To date, approximately six hundred assessments have been completed and over seven hundred have been scheduled for July, August and September.

## **SUPPORTS COORDINATORS**

It is ODP's expectation that the Supports Coordinator (SC) be present for the SIS assessment. ODP believes that attending the assessment will provide an opportunity for the SC to learn to know the individual better and will provide valuable information for use in the planning meeting. We recognize that there will be occasions where the SC will be unable to attend an assessment. We anticipate that these occasions will be minimal, and the assessment must be completed without the SC. Documentation of the SC's absence must be noted in the service notes in the Home and Community Services Information System (HCSIS).

## **ASSESSMENT SUMMARY**

The Pennsylvania Universal Assessment Summary Report has been available in HCSIS for a few weeks. The summary contains information for each question on the SIS. The summary will be available to SCs as soon as the assessment is finalized in HCSIS. Ascend central office staff must input the assessment data in HCSIS within seven days of the actual assessment. The data will be finalized in HCSIS two weeks from the entry date. Upon finalization, the summary will automatically be generated in HCSIS.

Since the last HCSIS release, the path has changed. To access it, go to Individual – Evaluation – Assessment Switchboard. Click on the link that shows a status of Finalized. If does not show a finalized status, it will be available two weeks from the creation date. Also, many of you lost access to the summary after this release. PCR 13000 has been created and the problem will be resolved on the July 29<sup>th</sup> HCSIS Release.

ODP discovered an error on the SIS Summary which will also be corrected on the July 29<sup>th</sup> HCSIS Release. On the comments page, Deloitte flip-flopped the headers for Medical Support and Behavior Support. The text under Medical Support pertains to the Behavior Support and vice versa. This fix will correct all Summaries regardless of when they were created.

## **SIS CROSSWALK**

Many of you have asked if there is a crosswalk for the SIS and the ISP. Lancaster County piloted the SIS a few years ago and created a crosswalk. They have graciously offered to share this with all of you. This crosswalk was used in a past SC Leadership Training. Please feel free to pass this on to all who may benefit from it. Thanks to Lancaster County for sharing this valuable tool. (Attachment)

### **PA PLUS**

The PA Plus has been a long time coming!! It looks as though the PA Plus will be in HCSIS as part of the December/January Release. Look for more info soon.

### **SIS BULLETIN/MANUAL**

The internal review process is near completion and the SIS Bulletin and Manual should be released very shortly.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

ODP/SIS: [www.odpconsulting.org](http://www.odpconsulting.org)

SIS: [www.siswebsite.org](http://www.siswebsite.org)

Ascend: [www.ascendami.com](http://www.ascendami.com)

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As always, thank you for your continued support.

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