

Payment Reform Update

Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging, and
Independent Living

Developmental Disabilities Services Division

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Payment Reform Advisory Groups

Payment Reform Specific Advisory Groups:

- Developmental Services (DS) Payment Reform Advisory Committee
 - Includes State of VT staff, self-advocates, family members, advocates (DD Council, Legal Aid), and service providers.
 - Advise on all payment reform activities; assessments, future payment modeling, encounter data reporting, topics as they arise.
- Standardized Assessment Workgroup
 - Includes State of VT staff, self-advocates, family members, advocates (DD Council, Bill Ashe) and service providers.
 - Advise on assessment specific activities; the selection of an assessment tool, roll out of the SIS-A, drafting of Supplemental Questions, currently working on a document and process to bring more context into the assessment and person-centered planning process.

Additional Advisory Groups:

- DS State Program Standing Committee
 - Includes State of VT staff, self-advocates, family members, advocates (DD Council, VT Legal Aid), and service providers.
 - Advise the department on the DS System of Care; policies, System of Care Plan, quality and responsiveness of services, redesignation of agencies, hiring of key leadership positions, payment reform, and all major initiatives.
- DAIL Advisory Board
 - All of you, thank you for your service!
 - Advise the commissioner with respect to programs and issues affecting older persons and persons with disabilities.

Communications

Communications that have gone out over the last year:

- **2/7/22** DAB was sent an email with links to SIS-A information on the AAIDD website, a Q&A transcript from an earlier townhall, our latest communications, videos, and other helpful documents
- **3/15/22** DAB notified through email about the SIS-A second edition being released in 2023
- **5/12/22** Attended DAB, gave an update, asked for feedback, and provided a resources slide with links to the latest documents
- **7/14/22** Attended DAB, gave an update, asked for feedback, and provided a resources slide with links to the latest documents
- **8/05/22** DAB notified via email of the start of the SIS A 3-year cycle of assessments
- **9/08/22** DAB was sent the flyer for the SIS-A engagement sessions for September and October 2022
- **11/10/22** Attended DAB, provided an update, asked for feedback, and provided a resource slide with links to the latest documents
- **1/08/23** DAB was notified via email that a new Supplemental Question about communication had been drafted
- **1/30/23** DAB was emailed the flyer for the SIS-A engagement sessions for February and March 2023
- **2/10/23** Attended DAB, providing an update, asking for feedback, and provided a resources slide with the links to the latest documents

Independent Assessment of Need

Vermont is using the Supports Intensity Scale- Adult assessment (SIS-A)

- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requires that we use an independently administered assessment tool to address conflict of interest in case management (the people who assess need should not also deliver the services).
- Developmental Disabilities Services Division (DDSD) chose a standardized tool because it offers an independent assessment of a person's support needs in a reliable, validated format, which will help reduce conflict of interest in services and provide an equitable approach to matching people to the services that fit their individual needs.
- Everyone who receives Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) will need to have a SIS A assessment when we come into compliance with conflict-of-interest rules.
 - We now know that the timeframe CMS gave us to make these changes is 3 years (the CMS decision was made in 2022, so 2025 will be the transition year).

Sample Update

- The SIS A sample group originally consisted of 700 people receiving HCBS through Developmental Services and were selected because they represented all regions of the state, agencies who provide services, types of services received, and housing/living situations. We reduced the sample to 500 when workforce shortages and COVID 19 surges created extreme challenges for providers, individuals, and families to attend the assessments.
- The DAIL contractor, Burns & Associates, has processed the sample and is reviewing it with DAIL staff. We are working on scheduling time with advisory groups to go over the results and ask for feedback and input.
 - Would the DAB be able to put this topic on the agenda in March or April?
 - We will be asking for your advice on how many levels of support we should have based on information from the sample analysis...more information on the next slide...

Calendar Year 2023 Goals for Payment Reform

Key Goals for 2023:

- Determine the different levels of support that Vermonters receiving DS services need
 - The current “homegrown” needs assessment breaks need out into 4 categories; None/Minimal/Moderate/Significant. We believe more levels of support may be needed and we can choose the language we want to identify each support type (This is what we will talk about in March or April).
 - This step in the process identifies similar support needs for groups of individuals based on their needs identified in the SIS-A.
 - The analysis of the sample found similarities based on assessment results and we will decide how many different support levels are needed based on the data.
 - We plan to have the levels of support drafted this spring, after we get input from stakeholders.
- Compare the first and second editions of the SIS A to make sure they are similar
 - The second edition of the SIS-A should be ready for use the first week of march.
 - We will look at approximately 100 second edition assessment results and compare them to the first edition to make sure the assessments don't have significant differences in scoring results.
 - Burns & Associates will analyze the assessments and we will share the findings, most likely this summer.

2023 Goals for Payment Reform (continued)

Key Goals for 2023:

- Draft a context document and process to bolster the person-centered planning process
 - Currently working with the Standardized Assessment Workgroup on this project.
 - Will examine if anything in the context process may impact level of support needed or budget needs.
 - Plan to have a draft for review this summer or fall.
- Draft a possible payment method
 - We need to develop the levels of support, context documents, and compare the first and second editions of the SIS A before we can work with our contractors to create the budget framework and present it to stakeholders and ask for input.
 - We will have a process to ask for exceptions if needed and appeal rights will always continue to be available.
 - Our goal is to have payment model drafts in the late fall or winter of 2023.

Resources

DDSD Payment Reform Information:

- [Payment Reform Information on DDSD website](#)

SIS-A Information:

- [General SIS A Information on the DDSD website](#)
- [Plain Language Document about the SIS A](#)
- [Videos about the SIS A](#)
- [SIS A information from AAIDD, the creators of the tool](#)

Questions? Suggestions? Feedback?

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