

# SIS A Levels of Support Validation Study

The study was to validate the 6-level support framework, specifically:

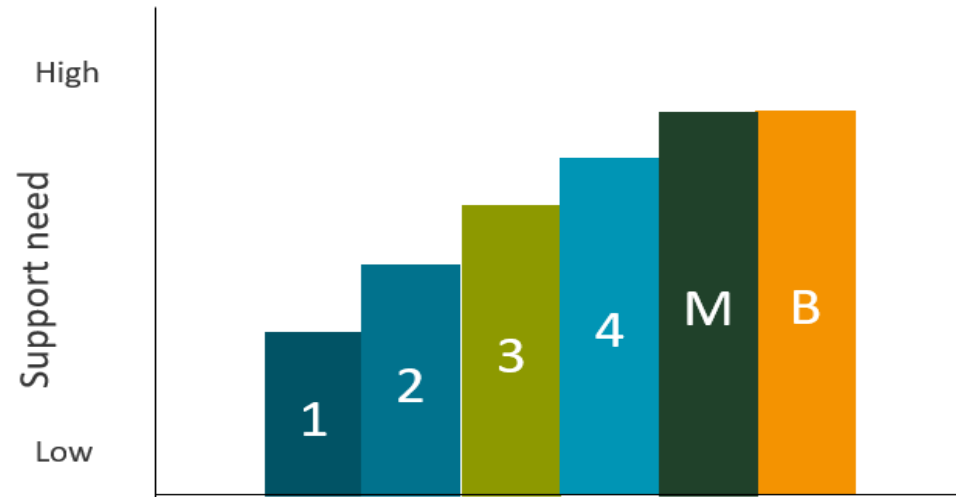
- Do general support needs increase from Levels 1 through 4?
- Only adults assigned to Levels M (Exceptional Medical) and B (Exceptional Behavioral) have an exceptional need for medical support or behavioral support?
- Do adults in the same support level have similar support needs?
- Do descriptions reflect the support needs of individuals in each of the 6 support levels?
- How can level descriptions be improved for accuracy or understandability?

The 6 levels of support:

- 4 levels for different general support needs (Low, Moderate, High, Very High), no exceptional Medical or Behavioral needs
- 1 level for high Medical support needs
- 1 level for high Behavior/Mental Health support needs

Reminder: This group reviewed the Levels of Support framework this past spring. DDSD asked for advice about whether we should have 5 or 6 levels of support. All recommendations were that we have 6 levels of support.

# 6 Levels of Support Framework



- 1 Low general support need, no extraordinary medical or behavioral needs
- 2 Moderate general support need, no extraordinary medical or behavioral needs
- 3 High general support need, no extraordinary medical or behavioral needs
- 4 Very high general support need, no extraordinary medical or behavioral needs
- M Extraordinary medical support need
- B Extraordinary behavioral support need

# SIS A Levels of Support Validation Study

## SIS-A framework validation study September 14th – 29<sup>th</sup>

- Human Services Research Institute (HSRI) led the 4 review teams
- Representative sample of 160 consumer records, 10 from each agency.
  - The records were a mix of different support needs; different home settings, different services, and amount of support needed.
  - Needed approximately 120 records, sampled more than needed because we knew we'd have to eliminate some that were incomplete or couldn't be used or reviewed.
  - We were able to review and use 128 records.
- Ensuring that the SIS-A 6 level framework identified the right level of support for most people.
  - There are and will always be people whose needs have to be considered outside of any typical budgeting process.
- Looked at the SIS A and consumer record to make sure the SIS A framework had identified the right level of support.
  - Each level of support has a definition (reviewed by this group at the September meeting).
- We worked with providers to review the consumer's record and determine if their level of support was appropriately identified.

# Context in the Validation Study

DDSD also looked at the following context areas during the study to see if they might make a difference in being able to indicate when someone might need more support than the framework can identify:

- Needing 24 hour supports
- 2:1 staffing, or unique staffing needs
- Receiving services under Act 248 and/or the Public Safety Program
- Already have a \$200,000+ budget
- Ongoing and expensive technology or equipment needs
- Actions that can pose a health or safety risk to providers
- Have a guardian through Office of Public Guardian

These areas were identified with the Standardized Assessment Workgroup, the group that is currently creating the context tool.

# Findings of the Validation Study

- ✓ Does the support need increase as assigned level increases from Levels 1 through 4? **Yes**
- ✓ Do individuals in the same support level generally have similar support needs? **Yes**
- ✓ Does level assignment criteria identify the level appropriate with the person's need most of the time? **Yes.**
  - 110 people, or approximately 86% of individuals reviewed in the validation study were in the appropriate level of support.
  - 6 people (5%) needed more support than others in their level of support. \*\*\*5 out of the 6 answered 'yes' to one or more context questions\*\*\*
  - 12 people (9%) needed less support than others in their level of support.
- ✓ Only adults assigned to Levels M (Exceptional Medical) and B (Exceptional Behavioral) have an exceptional need for medical support or behavioral support? **Yes, most of the time.**
  - HSRI is recommending that people need to score a '2' (Extensive Support Need) on at least one item in the medical section to be in the M level. We need to ensure that the medical need is extensive and at least one item scoring a '2' will help identify exceptional need.
- ✓ Do descriptions reflect the support needs of individuals in each of the 6 support levels? **Yes**
- ✓ How can descriptions be improved for accuracy or understandability? HSRI is updating language and clarifying areas based on the validation study.

# Proposed Level Scoring Criteria

Level	SNI	Medical Support (Section 1A)	Behavioral Support (Section 1B)
1	Up to 71	Less than 7	Less than 11
2	72-88	Less than 7	Less than 11
3	89-106	Less than 7	Less than 11
4	107 and up	Less than 7	Less than 11
M	Any	7 or higher with 1 or more "2"s OR Verified medical need	Any
B	Any	Any	11 or higher OR Verified behavioral need

# Follow Up and Reminders

- We are working on adding context into the person-centered planning process and to help make decisions about services and budgets.
  - Needing 24 hour supports and/or needing 2:1 staffing, or unique staffing needs were identified most often by 5 of the 6 people who needed more supports than the framework identified.
  - We will continue to work with the Standardized Assessment Workgroup, stakeholders, and HSRI on identifying the context questions that we want to consider for future service and budget planning, but this is a great start!
- We will share the updated support level descriptions when they are ready.
- The provider rate survey is due November 30<sup>th</sup>, we can then build new rate models and propose a budget framework in early 2024.
- We will have an exceptions process for people who need additional services and funding.
- Grievance and Appeal rights will always be available

# Resources

## DDSD Payment Reform Information:

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

## SIS-A Information:

- [General SIS A Information on the DDSD website](#)
- [Plain Language Document about the SIS A](#)
- [Sample 1<sup>st</sup> Edition SIS A](#)
- [Sample 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition SIS A](#)
- [Supplemental Questions](#)
- [Videos about the SIS A](#)
- [SIS A information from AAIDD, the creators of the tool](#)