

APSI End of 2016 Options Counseling Update

As 2016 comes to a close I want to provide an update to our Developmental Disabilities partners on the status of APSI's Option Counseling Process. APSI's process generated a considerable amount of conversation amongst providers, county boards and other advocacy groups. We have met with many of you to review APSI's process and to answer numerous questions. We continue to be open and transparent in our efforts to determine if individuals we serve can benefit from accepting an Exit Waiver.

I want to give you the background again on how this process started. The Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) has made Exit Waivers available through the Biennium budget for the 5,400 individuals who live in ICFs and may want services provided by an IO Waiver. The purpose of the Options Counseling process is to ensure individuals with developmental disabilities have the opportunity to explore all available options for meeting their needs and to enable them to make an informed choice about moving to less restrictive setting.

DODD contracted with Care Star to provide options counseling in late 2015 for persons in ICFs not represented by APSI, and DODD requested APSI to complete the options counseling for persons we represent. Through regular communication DODD was made aware of and agreed with APSI's options counseling process.

APSI represents close to 1,400 persons who live in ICFs. APSI made the decision to conduct options counseling for all persons who live in a ICF in early 2016. At that time we received feedback from our DD partners that the initial process we developed lacked detail and would benefit from modification.

As an ongoing function of our role as guardian of person, APSI staff complete regular quarterly visits to all individuals we serve. During these quarterly visits APSI staff utilized a modified options counseling tool originally developed by Care Star to complete the initial process.

APSI staff completed initial options counseling for close to 1400 persons at regular quarterly visits in April, May and June 2016. APSI utilized information available before the visits as well as information gathered during the visits to complete the assessment.

APSI staff members continue to repeat the counseling for many persons based upon the changing needs of the person and feedback from their provider, family members and/or county board. The Options Counseling visits continue to involve gathering and compiling information on the individual's preferences, input from the provider, and input from the family and the APSI Protective Service Representative. In addition there is a review of records including the discharge summary.

The APSI Option Counseling Form provides a summary of the visit and, based on this information, a recommendation indicates if the person is interested, not interest, or may be interested in an exit waiver. This information is then communicated to the DODD Medicaid staff.

	Interested	Not Interested	Maybe
December 27, 2016	466	554	361
June 30, 2016	536	458	410

The above chart shows the outcomes of APSI's Options Counseling as of December 27, 2016. Since June, about 70 persons have changed from being interested in the exit waiver to not being interested.

APSI has communicated this process to providers and other interested stakeholders. And as the process moves forward, APSI will continue to work with individuals to help with the transition and assess their changing needs.

If you have questions, please contact:

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