

Payment Reform Overview

Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging, and
Independent Living

Developmental Disabilities Services Division

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Goals of Payment Reform

DDSD payment reform started in January 2018, paused during the beginning of the pandemic, and restarted in the fall 2020.

Goals of payment reform:

- **Transparent:** easily described and understood
- **Effective:** create a payment model that supports people getting appropriate services to meet their needs
- **Equitable:** resources made available in a similar way across the state
- **Accountable:** State can identify what services were delivered to people and relate that to payment for services
- **Sustainable:** Pay providers reasonable rates for delivering services

Important Features of Payment Reform

Independent Assessment of Need

How are people's needs assessed?

Resource Allocation

How do assessed needs translate into funding?

Payment Model

How does the state pay for services?

Service Planning and Delivery

How is the service plan developed, implemented, and monitored?

Accountability

How does state track what was provided and ensure people's needs are met? (encounter data)

Independent Assessment of Need

- Vermont is rolling out the Supports Intensity Scale-Adult assessment (SIS-A)
 - Current assessment tool is “home grown”, it is not standardized, does not lend itself to an objective, reliable way of measuring what people need, does not have a consistent way of translating information gathered into an individualized plan.
- Public Consulting Group (PCG) has been contracted to conduct assessments
 - PCG assessors undergo extensive training to become certified to administer the SIS A.
 - Assessors do not work for the agency providing services and will help reduce conflict of interest in service delivery.
 - Assessments started in the summer of 2021. Initial results will not impact anyone’s current budget, assessments completed prior to April 1, 2022, will only be used to help create a payment model.
 - This is a big change and we’re getting a lot of feedback about improvements we can make, as well as the impact on providers.

Resource Allocation Payment Model and Service Planning and Delivery

- SIS A scores will eventually be used to inform the creation of the Individual Support Agreements for consumers and a budget for services.
- Goal is to have equal access to similar resources for people with similar needs across the state, the use of a standardized tool will help with this.
 - Having one provider conduct assessments statewide using a standard process will improve consistency and equity of resources.
 - In the future, DDSD hopes to offer free trainings around Person-Centered Planning with the SIS A.
 - We will involve self-advocates, families, providers, and important stakeholders in the payment model planning in the future, but we need service data and SIS A results to begin drafting a payment model.

Accountability

- Starting on July 1, 2021, service providers began entering information about the services they provide into the Medicaid Management Information System
 - This allows the state to see what services were delivered, if they match up to the assessed need, and the costs associated.
 - The data entered into the system is referred to as 'encounter data', because it captures the details of the encounters that happen in our system.
 - Having access to this data makes service delivery and budget payments transparent and holds the providers and the State more accountable for the use of resources.
 - Encounter data will be used to help create a future payment model, along with the SIS A information.

Questions?

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