

Supporting Informed Choice

Agenda

- Overview of informed choice initiatives
- Discussion of counseling process
- Questions & answers

Informed Choice Initiatives

- Three distinct opportunities to learn about community-based options
 - Preadmission counseling
 - Options counseling
 - Annual discharge planning
- The same materials must be available and shared with individuals/families at each session.

Required Materials

- Developed in conjunction with the ICF Process Workgroup to present clear, objective information regarding HCBS and ICF services (providers, county boards, advocates, state agencies)
 - “ICF and Medicaid Waivers: What is the Difference?”
 - “Comparing DODD Waivers”
 - “What to Expect If . . .”
 - “Frequently Asked Questions”
- Additional Easy Read materials are available under the “My DODD” tab of DODD’s website

Pre-admission Counseling

- ICFs with 9 beds or more MUST refer people for preadmission counseling prior to admission
- Referrals are sent to the county of residence
- Boards must conduct face-to-face counseling with individual/family within 5 days
 - Using materials developed by DODD
 - Conversation tailored to that person's unique circumstances
- DODD has 2 days to verify completion

Pre Admission Counseling

- Person Centered Conversation
- Uses the DODD tools provided
- Successful with well trained, knowledgeable staff
- Ensure all options are reviewed
 - Immediate need-can use ICF for respite and still get a waiver

Stark County Process

- Community Integration Team
- One point person-community integration SSA
- Regular follow up and communication
- Specific staff completing counseling (same staff that complete Medicaid and waiver applications)

Barriers

- Many people choose ICF simply by their own preference and the services they desire
- Location-some people choose ICF because of their location
- Comfort level

Options Counseling

- Conducted by Advocacy and Protective Services, Inc. (APSI) for all individuals they represent
- Conducted by CareStar for other individuals living in ICFs with 9 beds or more
 - Originally only for people who were also on the waiver waiting list
 - Now expanded to include everyone living in large ICFs, including people admitted within the last 6 months
- Available, by request, to individuals living in ICFs with 8 or fewer beds

What is CareStar?

- CareStar is an agency under contract with DODD to visit with people living in ICFs and their family members to share information about community options.
- This is called “options counseling.”
- Everyone who lives in an ICF with 9 beds or more has the opportunity to participate in options counseling with CareStar.

What does CareStar do?

CareStar meets individually with the person and their family and talks about:

- With whom the person may want to live
- Work or other activities the person wants to do
- With whom the person wants to do these activities
- Concerns the person or their family may have about living in the community
- Many times, guardians and families are answering these questions on behalf of the individual

What does CareStar do?

CareStar then provides the individual and their family with information about:

- What a waiver is, and how waiver services may meet the person's needs.
- What waiver services may be the same as ICF services, and what may be different.
- How the Service and Support Administrator (SSA) or the County Board of Development Disabilities (CBDD) helps a person choosing a waiver.

What are some questions individuals and families have?

- What does a waiver home look like?
 - Since many individuals have lived in an ICF for several years, they may have never seen what community living looks like.
 - It is important for individuals and families to be able to see different types of community living options.
- How will my son or daughter be kept safe in the community?
 - Parents are very concerned about the individual wandering away from home, or being mistreated by others.

What are some questions individuals and families have?

- Can my son or daughter get 24 hour care with a waiver?
 - Families often believe the only place to have 24 hour care available is in an ICF.
- What do I do if a provider calls off?
 - Individuals and families are very used to having staff always available.

What are some concerns individuals and families have?

- There will be less staff watching or helping the individual if they live in the community.
 - Some families are concerned that the individual will not receive enough help living in the community.
 - Families are also worried about not being told by providers when changes happen with the individual.
- Change is very difficult for the individual
 - Some individuals have live in an ICF for 10, 20 or 30 years. They are worried they will not adjust to new providers or a new home.

What are some concerns individuals and families have?

- Some families are worried about community living not working out for the individual and the individual not being able to return to the same ICF.
 - There is concern about having to find another community living option, or another ICF.
 - Individuals do not want to have to move several times.

State-Funded Waivers

- “Diversion” Waivers
 - Available to people who complete preadmission counseling and choose a waiver in lieu of ICF services
- “Exit” Waivers
 - May be requested directly from DODD by individuals/guardians without completing counseling
 - May be requested upon completion of options counseling by APSI or CareStar
 - Once assigned to an individual, only the individual/guardian may request that it be withdrawn (not boards or ICFs)

Transition Resources

- Resources for individuals
 - Peer-to-peer counseling
 - Exploratory visits
 - Trial visits
 - Bridge funding
 - Follow-along visits
- Resources for county boards
 - Funding for service and support administration
 - Capital assistance
- Resources for providers
 - Training/technical assistance (waiver/ICF)
 - Trial visits
 - Funding for bed-hold days for the ICF

Transition Resources: Individuals

Peer-to-peer counseling

- Effective December 2017
- Opportunity for individuals living in intermediate care facilities (ICFs) and/or their family members to talk with other people about what their community living experiences are like.
- Offered to everyone who participates in options counseling
- Conducted by people with disabilities and family members through a contract with Nisonger Center

Transition Resources: Individuals

Exploratory visits

- Opportunity to visit day and/or residential settings where waiver services are provided
 - Apartments
 - Homes where people share services
 - Shared living settings
 - Community-based day services

Transition Resources: Individuals

Trial visits

- Effective December 2017
- Opportunity to spend the day or have overnight visits in a home prior to moving to be sure
 - The provider in the home meets the person's needs
 - Any other housemates are compatible with the person

Transition Resources: Individuals

- Bridge Funding
 - Up to \$1000 available
 - Provides funding for start-up costs
- Follow-along visits
 - Visits by DODD staff within first 30 – 60 days of discharge, 180 days, and 365 days post-discharge
 - Purpose is to identify and provide technical assistance to address concerns with or barriers to successful community living

Transition Resources: Boards

- Service and Support Administrator Funding
 - \$1,000 for each person enrolling in an exit waiver
- Capital Assistance
 - Funding for purchase, renovation, and/or construction of community housing
 - For settings with four or fewer individuals
 - Not to be used for:
 - ICFs
 - Mobile homes/trailers

Transition Resources: Providers

- Waiver providers
 - Up to \$500 for participating in individual-specific training to support people leaving ICFs
 - Funding to provide supports during trial visits
 - \$100 for visits lasting at least 5 hours with no overnight
 - \$150 for overnight visits
- ICF providers
 - Reimbursement for bed-hold days for individuals visiting potential new homes
- Free technical assistance is available through DODD to prevent readmission to ICFs

Questions?