



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE
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KEVIN T. CASEY
Deputy Secretary
Office of Developmental Programs

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February 17, 2009

Dear Colleagues:

As you know, the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) has implemented a standardized assessment for all individuals entering and currently enrolled in the Consolidated and Person/Family Directed Support (P/FDS) Waivers. The instrument of choice is the Supports Intensity Scale™ (SIS™), a valid and reliable needs assessment developed by the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Topics covered in the SIS™ interview include home living, community living, lifelong learning, employment, health and safety, social activities, protection and advocacy, and exceptional medical and behavioral support needs.

Additionally, ODP Stakeholders developed the PA Plus to be used concurrently with the SIS™. It consists of a set of nine questions to provide additional planning information not covered in the SIS™ assessment. Topics include supports needed for mobility, transfers, vision, hearing, communication, and safety, as well as assistive technology, treatments, medications, and behavioral health. These additional questions are designed to support the planning process and better serve individual needs.

I am pleased to announce that ODP will be including the PA Plus with all SIS™ assessments, effective March 2, 2009. Our vendor, Ascend Management Innovations (Ascend), has trained their assessors and completed a statewide pilot of the PA Plus in preparation for the implementation. It is estimated that the additional time required for the PA Plus is approximately 15 minutes, and Ascend will be conducting both assessments concurrently.

For your convenience, a copy of the PA Plus is attached. During the assessment interview, Ascend assessors will provide copies of the PA Plus for respondents to reference.

The PA Plus has been incorporated into HCSIS and is included in the Pennsylvania Universal Summary Report, the document that contains the assessment information from the SIS™. Copies of the summary report are available from the Supports Coordinator approximately 21 days after the assessment interview.

Dear Colleagues

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2/17/2009

Thank you for your continued support as we strive to continue to serve the needs of Pennsylvanians with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin T. Casey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K' and a distinct 'T'.

Kevin T. Casey

Attachment