

# SIS™ UPDATE

## SIS and PA PLUS Background

The implementation of the Supports Intensity Scale continues. The SIS is the standard assessment tool that ODP is using to evaluate the needs of Waiver participants. The Office of Developmental Programs reported more than 1300 assessments either completed or scheduled through September of this year. Thirty two assessors are working for Ascend to administer the test in all geographic areas in Pennsylvania. Over the next five years, everyone in the Person Family Directed Support and the Consolidated Waivers will be required to have a SIS. When you are notified to receive an assessment, you will choose at least two people to participate in an interview process to respond to the questions on the test. Your Supports Coordinator is also expected to be there. After the meeting, you and the ISP team will get a copy of the Summary Report. Results of the assessment will be used during the ISP planning process. For more information, you can ask your supports coordinator, visit [www.odpconsulting.org](http://www.odpconsulting.org),

[www.siswebsite.org](http://www.siswebsite.org), and [www.ascendami.com](http://www.ascendami.com), or request a training through the Training Partnership at 1-866-865-6170.

Ascend has completed about 2,000 assessments since March, 2008, and approximately 600 per month are now being scheduled. Ascend anticipates completing 760 assessments per month by Spring, 2009. With your help, ODP and Ascend continue to resolve problems as they occur, and I'm happy to say that they are decreasing. We've had many good experiences and have received lots good feedback from you, as people see the difference between the SIS™ and other assessment tools.

Assessments are currently being conducted statewide on all Waiver participants. We're seeing a reduction in the length of time for the actual assessment process with the average hovering around 2.5 hours. As soon as the 09/09 Initiatives Wait List is available, those individuals will be identified to receive Sis™ Assessments.

The PA Plus was developed by stakeholders 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 individuals' needs. We anticipate implementation in late January or February, 2009, depending on HCSIS functionality.

For further information, please go the following websites:

ODP/SIS: [www.odpconsulting.net](http://www.odpconsulting.net)

SIS: [www.siswebsite.org](http://www.siswebsite.org)

Ascend: [www.ascendami.com](http://www.ascendami.com)