



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF
MENTAL HEALTH, MENTAL RETARDATION AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

Post Office Box 1797
Richmond, Virginia 23218-1797

Telephone (804) 786-3921
Voice/TDD (804) 371-8977
www.dmhmsas.virginia.gov

JAMES S. REINHARD, M.D.
COMMISSIONER

TO: The Honorable Marilyn B. Tavenner
Community Services Board Executive Directors
Community Services Board Intellectual Disability Council
Representatives
Private Providers of MR Medicaid Waiver Services
Training Center Directors
Advocates
Individuals who are supported in our System
Family Members

FROM: James S. Reinhard, M.D., Commissioner
Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance
Abuse Services

Mr. Patrick Finnerty, Director
Department of Medical Assistance Services

DATE: February 19, 2009

SUBJECT: FY 2009 Roll-Out of PCP/SIS Package

We are pleased to announce the roll-out of the Person-Centered Planning/Supports Intensity Scale training package that is now being initiated across Virginia. This training is the result of intensive planning and piloting conducted over more than two years and incorporates the collective values of a vast body of stakeholders and contributors. Over the next three years, all persons with intellectual disabilities receiving services through Virginia's Medicaid system will be supported in directing their own planning through person-centered practices that focus on gifts and talents and hopes and dreams for a good life in the community. Person-centered planning helps identify the supports an individual needs to achieve his or her desired outcomes.

To support this planning process, assessment information will now be gathered across Virginia in a uniform manner using the Supports Intensity Scale. This instrument, designed by the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, assesses the strengths, needs, and wishes of each individual and the level of supports needed to achieve "a life like yours." The results of this effort will ensure that individuals with intellectual disabilities who are supported in our system of services will now hold the key leadership position with regard to their own services.

MEMORANDUM

February 19, 2009

Page 2

Since October of 2008, staff from the DMHMRSAS Office of Intellectual Disability Supports have been offering training in the new person-centered process and training for master trainers, interviewers and administrators for the Supports Intensity Scale. This office has also joined with the Partnership for People with Disabilities, under the Systems Transformation Grant, in providing additional training on Person-Centered Thinking” and the use of person-centered tools to help us better support individuals in this process. You may find the training calendar on our OIDS web site. Implementation of the PCP/SIS process will begin in Virginia in April, 2009 for all MR Medicaid Waiver providers and training centers. During the period of April 1 and July 1, 2009, these providers and training centers will begin using specified portions (or the entire plan if they choose) of the PCP materials as they become familiar with them for the annually completed ISPs. The SIS will be phased in as a triennial assessment over the three years beginning April 1.

For many of you this will represent a new way of thinking about how services are provided. Early results of systems that have already converted demonstrate extremely positive results for the individuals we support. I urge all of you to join in this effort enthusiastically as we move one step further in our system’s transformation!

Thank you.