



Provider Profiles Now On MyODP

ODP has launched the [Online Provider Profiles](#), a key effort to continuously improve quality and choice for individuals and families. Provider Profiles consist of a provider Summary developed and submitted by the provider and a provider Data Display showing the provider's performance in supporting individuals and families.

"Individuals and families have been asking for provider profiles for years and today we have something tangible to give them," Deputy Secretary Kristin Ahrens said.

"Provider Profiles are all about supporting individuals and families to live Everyday Lives," added Dolores Frantz, Director of the Division of Quality Management. "We aim to design and deliver key information about quality providers and services that will help individuals and families make the best choices possible as they pursue their goals. We very much appreciate the willingness of our providers to partner with us as we roll out the project."

This is Phase 1 of ODP's Provider Profiles project. In this phase, provider summaries and data displays are available on MyODP.org for 84 residential providers with 10 or more individual surveys in the 2017 Independent Monitoring for Quality (IM4Q) Data File. IM4Q Scale Scores are displayed for Individual Satisfaction,

Choice, Inclusion, Dignity, Family Satisfaction, and Physical Setting. ODP's Provider Profiles web page also connects viewers with information about licensing and Quality Assessment and Improvement (QA&I) Comprehensive Reports.

Using the graphical user interface, individuals and families can reach the Services and Supports Directory (SSD) to search for a service provider, and COMPASS, where they can apply for services. ODP's Provider Profiles web page also offers a meaningful list of Recommended Questions for Individuals and Families to ask providers of interest when visiting them. In Phase 2, ODP will reach out to providers who received QA&I Full Reviews during Cycle 1, Year 1 to obtain and post their provider Summaries. ODP is also planning to post additional performance data in areas including employment and community participation.

Information, Events, and Resources



RISE: Senator Casey (D-PA) and Senator Cassidy (R-LA) have introduced the Respond, Innovate, Succeed, and Empower Students with Disabilities (RISE) Act. The bill will provide parents and students with information on disability services in one place, require colleges to accept an IEP or 504 plan as evidence of a disability when a student is seeking accommodations; and support a technical assistance center for college faculty to learn more about the needs of students with disabilities.

Learn more at www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1585.



FUNDING: Governor Tom Wolf's request for a \$50 million increase in special education funding for students with disabilities was approved and marks an historic investment—the largest increase for special education to date.

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Penguin Project Showcases All Abilities in Theater

Backstage at the Gettysburg Community Theatre Danny Burton used to find a spot in the back, where he could quietly hide, while the other children prepared for the show. The other kids spoke and sang and danced around the stage, but Danny hung back in the “safe” seats, watching them rehearse.

That was five years ago. Much has changed.

TRANSFORMED

Danny is now on stage, performing in this year’s GCT Penguin Project production of “Madagascar the Musical Adventure.” The Penguin Project offers an open invitation to those ages 10-21, with or without disabilities, to experience theater and its ability to transform shy individuals into confident performers. It was founded by Dr. Andrew Morgan, an Illinois Professor Emeritus of Clinical Pediatrics and the former Head of the Division of Child Development at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria. Morgan created the program to empower children with disabilities through theatre. The Penguin Project is now a national program with nearly 30 chapters in 15 states. Chad-Alan Carr, GCT’s executive and artistic director, was the first to replicate the program outside of Illinois.

INTEGRATION

Performers with intellectual or developmental disabilities, including Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, autism, visual impairment, hearing impairment, and other neurological disorders fill the roles for “Madagascar the Musical Adventure.”

Danny’s mother, Lynn, is pleased with his participa-



Photo by Cindie Leer

Penguin Project performers presented “Wizard of Oz” in 2018.

tion in the program and is an advocate of its results. As a result of his work at the theatre, Lynn says that Danny is now proud to show off his dance moves and sings show songs at home. He hides back stage no more. She gives much of the credit to peer mentors, Ashley and Brandon Gladfelter, who work with youth with disabilities involved at the theatre, as they participate alongside other kids like Danny during the annual production.

Other mentors include Myka Walker, aged 12. Walker says being a Penguin Project mentor has helped her

“Madagascar the Musical Adventure” takes place August 16-18, 2019 at the Eichelberger Performing Arts Center in Haver. Visit the [Gettysburg Community Theatre’s website for more information.](#)



Penguin Project Showcases All Abilities in Theater

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realize that people with disabilities have the same emotions she has, “but might have a different way of showing it.”

FRIENDSHIPS

The “Penguin” part of the project’s name comes from the idea that penguins are birds that cannot fly. However, penguins can swim excellently and have other talents that help them thrive. At a recent GCT, Carr encourages cast members to imitate the walk of a penguin, a little warm-up before the hard work begins of remembering their lines, songs, and dance routines. It is noisy and crowded, yet Carr manages to keep all on task, entrusting the friendships formed between performer and mentors will boost productivity.

These friendships go beyond the walls of GCT. Cast member Payton McInturff recently attended his high school prom with his mentor and fellow theatre friend, Ashley Gladfelter. The two met during a previous Penguin Project production of “High School Musical.”

“She was not his mentor that year, but I saw something very special in this young lady,” Payton’s mother, Gina McInturff, says. The McInturffs asked Ashley to come to their house after school to stay with Payton until they got home from work and she agreed. The two have been friends ever since. Ashley’s brother Brandon was Payton’s mentor last year during the theater’s production of “Wizard of Oz.” Now he spends after-school time playing basketball with Payton, as Ashley has moved on to college.

“I cannot imagine Payton’s life without these kids in it,” McInturff continues. “I am not exaggerating when I say the Penguin Project changed our lives for the better. Chad has done a wonderful job and the program seems to get better every year. I never thought we’d get Payton on stage, but this year he’s in his fifth show. He loves it. It’s helped his social skills, his confidence, and he has made some great friends along the way.”



Penguin Project cast members Payton McInturff and Ashley Gladfelter attended McInturff’s Senior Prom this year.



Penguin Project cast member Payton McInturff get measured for his costume for his August performance in “Madagascar the Musical Adventure.”



ODP Shares Resources at PaTTAN Conference



Pictured from left: Lea Sheffield, Kelly Ruiz, Lori Milcic, and Krista Lewis of the Special Populations Unit.

The Special Populations Unit recently sat on the panelists board at PaTTAN's Deaf-Blind Project, Family Learning Conference and held a question-and-answer session. The theme of this year's conference was "Preparing the Good Life." The Special Populations Unit shared how ODP supports families and staff members informed the audience about resources available through the unit.

The PA Family Network also presented at the Deaf-Blind Project Family Learning Conference by holding interactive learning session on Charting the LifeCourse. Along with ODP and the PA Family Network, several other agencies were available to families in attendance: the National Center on Deaf-Blindness, Helen Keller National Center, Parent Education Advocacy and Leadership Center (PEAL), iCanConnect, OVR's Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services, and Hispanos Unidos para Niños Excepcionales (HUNE).



True or False: If someone is not maintaining eye contact while you are talking, they are not paying attention.

False!

Explanation: Many people who have sensory processing disorders may not look at you during a conversation because they are focusing on processing information through the sense they most dominantly need for the situation. Some simple accommodations to ensuring the best communication experience include:

- Letting them look away while you speak or take visual breaks while signing
- Making sure they're in an environment that is quiet, clean, uncluttered, and doesn't have any strong smells
- Letting them sit during the conversation
- And giving them time to process new sensory information before communicating with them.

For information on the Communication Corner, please contact the Special Populations Unit at RA-ODPDeafServices@pa.gov.



Meetings Available to Inform About Electronic Visit Verification Requirements

The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) has scheduled public meetings as part of a comprehensive strategy to inform stakeholders about approaching requirements as part of The 21st Century Cures Act.

As of January 1, 2020, Personal Care Services (PCS) overseen by the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) and Office of Long-Term Living (OLTL) will be required to verify specific data elements in order to receive payment for each PCS claim submitted. Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) requirements impact services funded by the Person/Family Directed Support, Community Living, Consolidated and the Adult Autism Waivers (AAW) and include the following services: companion, in-home and community support, respite (unlicensed settings only and camp), homemaker and community support (AAW).

Beginning in October 2019, DHS will allow provider agencies, Agency With Choice (AWC), and Vendor Fiscal agents to submit EVV data. This “soft launch” will give providers the opportunity to test their EVV data submission systems. PA DHS has contracted with DXC and Sandata Technologies LLC to deliver the PA DHS EVV system, as well as provide system orientation and training to providers related to the PA DHS EVV system.

Beginning in September 2019, DHS will roll out statewide EVV training to include 32 face to face trainings and a considerable number of webinars. Training details are still being finalized and will be disseminated by ODP at a future date. Stakeholder meetings regarding EVV are public and hosted as webinars to provide details and updates related to PA DHS implementation, as follows: (dates subject to change)

- Tuesday August 13, 2019 from 1:00 to 3:30PM
- Tuesday September 17, 2019 from 1:00 to 3:30PM
- Tuesday October 22, 2019 from 1:00 to 3:30PM
- Tuesday November 26, 2019 from 1:00 to 3:30PM
- Tuesday December 31, 2019 from 1:00 to 3:30PM

Find additional information:

www.dhs.pa.gov/provider/billinginformation/electronicvisitverification/ or email RA-PWEVVNOTICE@pa.gov.

Information, Events, and Resources

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RESOURCES: RespectAbility is a nonprofit offering resources for individuals with disabilities. Its website, RespectAbility.com, “fights stigmas and advances opportunities for people with disabilities.” Learn more at www.respectability.org/resources.



NATIONAL STATS: The National Core Indicators (NCI) released a data highlight titled “What do NCI Data Tell Us about Compliance with the HCBS Settings Rule?” The highlight speaks to the 2017-2018 National Core Indicators™ data collection cycle. Learn more at www.nationalcoreindicators.org/news.

If your organization is hosting webinars that anyone can attend, please send information to:

RA-PWODP_OUTREACH@pa.gov



Conference Builds Capacity in Supporting Healthy Sexuality in Dually Diagnosed Population

David Attryde and Dr. Elizabeth Johnson presented “Supporting Healthy Sexuality” to a full-capacity conference room June 26, part of the Dual Diagnosis Conference Series. ODP and OMHSAS offered the course to further our commitment to prevention of sexual abuse and to build capacity in advancing healthy sexuality and relationships.

Attryde presented “Sexually Healthy Environments: Creating and Sustaining Them for the Individuals We Support,” emphasizing how the creation and sustenance of a sexually healthy culture around individuals can promote sexual expression that is physically, mentally and emotionally safe for all concerned.

Intimacy deficit may lead to sexual offense in both neurotypical and DD populations, he said, and he challenged the field to examine how social determinants of health (social, economic, and political resources and structures) might play a role and/or influence in one’s behavior.

Dr. Elizabeth Johnson presented “Trauma and Problematic Sexual Behaviors: Risk, Need, and Responsibility.” She reviewed the role of early victimization and trauma in sexual offending behaviors and introduced three complementary models of support: strength-based; emotional regulation; and risk, need, and responsibility. She encouraged support staff to assume they *can* help individuals, to consult an expert, collaborate, and help the individual set up his or her own process and identify personalized coping skills.

The statewide “Dual Diagnosis Conference 2019 Expanding Capacity: Reaching Further,” will take place August 21 and 22 in Altoona, PA. [Details can be found on MyODP.](#)



David Attryde emphasized that individuals ARE sexual human beings with the right to enjoy personal relationships and sexuality in a safe, consensual, and legal manner.



Among Dr. Elizabeth Johnson’s recommendations, she suggests collaboration with psychiatric intervention, not libido suppression.



Governor Signs Bill Expanding Protections for Witness and/or Victims of Sexual Assault

On June 28, Governor Tom Wolf approved Senate Bill 469, which provides procedures to protect victims and witnesses with intellectual disabilities or autism during their involvement with the criminal justice system. Because individuals with I/DD or autism are seven times more likely to be sexually assaulted than a person without a disability, passage of this legislation is a necessary step forward in protecting them.

With certain criteria met, it allows for an out-of-court statement made by the victim or a caregiver to be admissible as evidence in a criminal or civil proceeding. This helps individuals with disabilities avoid having to offer in-person testimony, which can cause further trauma, while still allowing them to have a voice in the proceedings.

The Senate and House signed SB469 June 19. [Details about SB469 can be found online.](#)



OVR Now Has Waiting List, ODP Offers Updates

The Department of Labor & Industry's Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) has been operating under an order of selection, serving those with the most significant disabilities as its priority since March 1, 1994.

As of July 1, 2019, OVR is operating under a closed Order of Selection. This means OVR now has a waiting list for new customers referred after 7/1/19. Because of this, some employment-related services can be accessed through ODP without a referral to OVR. ODP is providing guidance regarding employment-related services during this period when OVR's order of selection is closed.

Bulletin 00-19-02, [OVR Referrals During a Period when OVR's Order of Selection is Closed](#)
Attachment 1 – [ODP Referral Table for ODP Employment Services – 7/1/19](#)
Attachment 2 – [Process for Employment Services](#)

The procedures outlined in the Bulletin are effective July 1, 2019, and should be followed until further notice. A [webinar for Individuals and family](#) will be held July 30, 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM; a [webinar for Administrative Entities, Supports Coordination Organizations, and Providers](#) will take place July 25, 9:00AM – 10:30AM.





Summary of ODP Communications Issued June 2019, With Links



1. ODP 19-064: [Regulatory Compliance Guide Public Comment Period Extended](#)
2. ODP 19-065: [Health Risk Screening Tool Implementation Update--Identifying Raters and User Accounts](#)
3. ODP 19-066: [Open for Public Comment--Proposed Amendments to the Intellectual Disability/Autism \(ID/A\) Waivers](#)
4. ODP 19-067: [Becoming An Informed Supporter--What You Should Know About Autism Webinar Series](#)
5. Sign up for [PA ABLE Webinars](#)
6. ODP 19-068: [Person Thinking Training Available](#)
7. ODP 19-069: [Process Modification in the Office of Developmental Programs \(ODP\) Provider Enrollment Process](#)
8. ODP 19-069: [Reissue 2-- Process Modification in The Office of Developmental Programs \(ODP\) Provider Enrollment Process](#)
9. ODP 19-070: [Incident Management \(IM\) Bulletin Listening Sessions Registration Available, Additional Sessions Added](#)
10. ODP 19-071: [Process for Updating Entity Contact Information For Quality Assessment and Improvement \(QA&I\) Process](#)
11. REVISED SDOH Assessment Survey
12. ODP 19-072: New SPeCTRUM 2.0 Training
13. ODP 19-073: Registration Now Open for June Certified Investigator Forum
14. ODP 19-074: [New ODP Communication Notification Feature for MyODP Users](#)
15. [ODP Newsletter JUNE 2019](#)
16. ODP 19-075: [Agency with Choice \(AWC\) Wage Ranges and Benefit Allowance for Specific Participant Directed Services Effective July 1, 2019](#)
17. ODP 19-076: [Vendor Fiscal/Employer Agent \(VF/EA\) Wage Ranges and Benefit Allowance for Specific Participant Directed Services Effective July 1, 2019](#)
18. ODP 19-077: [Office of Developmental Programs' Virtual Training Offerings July 2019](#)
19. ODP 19-078: [Exceptions to the Annual Fiscal Limit for the Person/Family Directed Support Waiver](#)
20. ODP 19-079: [Registration Now Open for Fall 2019 ODP Quality Management \(QM\) Certification Classes](#)
21. ODP 19-080: [Quality Assessment & Improvement Process, Cycle 1, Year 3: Changes for Fiscal Year 2019-2020](#)
22. ODP-19-081: Department of Human Services (DHS) eCIS Registration and Access (Administrative Entities Only)