

Kentucky families' success in keeping Supports Intensity Scale assessment tool out of ICF/MR

Source: Parent-Relative Organization for Oakwood Facilities (PROOF)

July 2012

Dear PROOF Board,

For over a year, the VOR staff and VOR members from Kentucky, Louisiana, and Tennessee have been actively voicing shared concerns regarding their states actual and announced plans to adopt and use the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) assessment test. The SIS assessment was introduced in Kentucky as part of a Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Medicaid waiver approved by CMS in August 2011.

Our concerns included the use of the test to assess ICF/DD (formerly ICF/MR) residents who have not expressed a desire either themselves or through their court appointed representatives to transition from their ICF/DD home to a HCBS community-based residential setting.

I am pleased to report to you that late last week I received notice from reliable sources that there are no plans to conduct SIS assessments on a widespread basis for all individuals who reside at the Oakwood ICF/DD. The SIS assessments will be completed for those Oakwood residents who are currently in the transition process and residents that express a future interest in moving to a community-based residence.

In a letter to me dated May 31, 2012 Commissioner Hall confirmed five additional significant understandings that improve the standing of families and guardians related to the SIS assessment process. A copy of that letter is attached. The SIS assessment VOR position paper "Emerging Threat" is also attached for you records.

On May 15, 2011 the PROOF Board voted to publish comments on the Kentucky HCBS waiver application. Comments on the SIS assessment test were part of those published comments. Without the support provided by VOR these results would more than likely not have been possible.

Sincerely,

Don Putnam
Member, PROOF Board