

Louisiana State Report 2019

Not much change from last year. Our current Governor, John Bel Edwards, is still very supportive of the only state run facility. As far as the budget, we are told by Dept. of Health that our facility, Pinecrest Supports and Services Center, is in good shape. We continue to see ongoing repairs and upgrades. Louisiana will have a Governor election this year and we are hopeful Governor Edwards is re-elected. Also, this year, Louisiana has a budget surplus so we are not hearing requests for cutting our facility's budget, which is very good for us.

Pinecrest is seen as a necessary resource by Louisiana Department of Health where the population remains fairly level as some clients move in and out because they need stabilization. This process is resulting in a temporary stay or a permanent one depending on the individual's needs.

Louisiana moved to a "tiered waiver" system this year using a SUN assessment of each individual allowing funds to be better distributed to more people. This system allows money to be designated based on their actual needs instead of the amounts previously required to be set aside for their use based solely on their waiver level.

There has actually been a first meeting of Medicaid, the Office for Citizens with DD, and advocates regarding better dental services for adults with IDD. The next meeting is supposed to be scheduled at the end of June with more individuals from the dental, education, and hospital fields. While we do not expect a sudden availability of services, we are hopeful about this forward step.

In 2008, rates per bed/person were cut to all providers – including ICF's. With Louisiana's raising the sales tax rate last year, money was available to give a temporary rate restoration for waiver services. The goal for this year's budget is to be able to do a full rate restoration for waiver services and a rebased rate for all ICF's (Restoration = individual/waiver; Rebase = Title 19/ICF). To accomplish the rebase, the last 3 years will be evaluated based on the cost of care at ICF's to determine a new rate.