

Louisiana State Report 2023

Announcement from Pinecrest (the only public ICF left in Louisiana) administrator:

As of May 19, 2023 all restrictions that were put in place for COVID have been cancelled. Parents can now visit homes at the one public ICF left in Louisiana – Pinecrest..

New CMS guidance as of May 31, 2023 ends the staff vaccine mandate, vaccine exemption requests requirements, staff testing requirements, and the requirement that non-vaccinated staffs must wear N95 masks at all times. Finally it's over!!!

Louisiana's Dental Task Force has continued to move forward with the goal of providing proper dental care for adults with IDD.

- 1) Focusing on training (both pre-service and Continuing Education for existing dentists) the Task Force has gotten the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities to partner with the Louisiana Dental Association to provide Continuing Education Units for existing dentists. Additionally OCDD is now working with regional dental associations to add more opportunities.
- 2) Moving forward with promoting this care nationally, our State Congressional leaders are in the process of passing House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 122. This legislation by Representative Timothy Kerner (a member of the Dental Task Force) calls for the United States Congress to adopt strategies for improving access to dental care for all adults with IDD. It has passed the House floor and moved to the Senate for approval.

A Direct support workforce and support coordination recruitment and retention bonus intended to be used to give bonus payments to direct support workers is moving forward. Due to prospective bonus payments being subject to overtime rules with Department of Labor, only retrospective bonus payments will be made. At this time, we are still waiting for CMS approval for the changes in the bonus payments.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Lafleur and Mary Kay Cowen