



Family Stakeholder Sessions:

interRAI Assessment Tools

Myers and Stauffer Team
June 24 and 26, 2024
5:30 – 7 PM CST



**MYERS AND
STAUFFER** LC
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Agenda

- Assessment Tools and Uses
- Modernizing Practices
- Assessment Tool Considerations
- Benefits of the interRAI
- Questions and Answers

Assessment Tools and Uses



Assessment Tool Purpose

- Waiver eligibility decisions
- Individual budget amount
- Acuity-based rate reimbursement
- Assessment-informed person-centered planning

Current Nebraska Assessment Practices

Eligibility

Nursing Facility (NF) Level of Care (LOC)

- **Waivers:** Two
- **Assessments:** Two, dependent on age

Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF-IID) LOC


- **Waivers:** Three
- **Assessment:** One for all ages

Current Nebraska Assessment Practices

Individual Budget Amount (IBA)

- ICF-IID LOC waivers use the Inventory for Client and Agency Planning (ICAP) when developing an IBA
- Items measured by the ICAP
- ICAP completion

Current Nebraska Assessment Practices



IBA, Continued

- **Five Acuity-Based Funding Tiers:**
 - Basic
 - Intermediate
 - High
 - Advanced
 - Behavioral Risk

Current Nebraska Assessment Practices

Acuity-Based Rate Reimbursement

- **Services reimbursed based on acuity:**
 - Child Day Habilitation
 - Community Integration
 - Day Support
 - Residential Habilitation
- **Acuity rates informed by the ICAP**

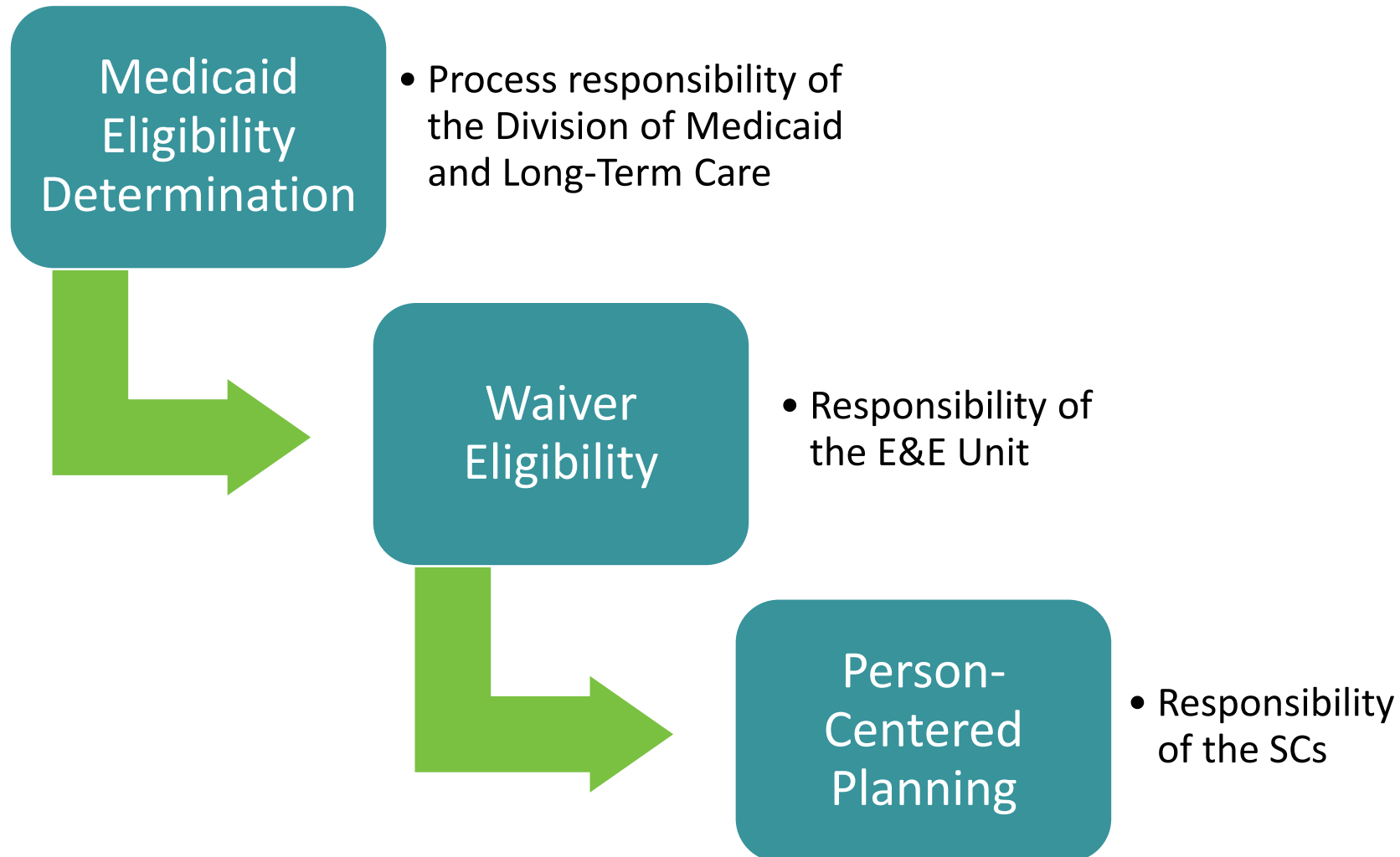
Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) Eligibility & Enrollment Staff

- Responsible for initial LOC determinations
- Not responsible for Medicaid eligibility
- Works closely with individuals applying for services

DDD Service Coordination Staff

- Develops Individual Support Plans (ISPs) after eligibility determinations
- Works with participant and family to determine appropriate person-centered services
- Conduct annual ICF/IID LOC determinations

DDD Assessment Processes



EXAMPLE ONLY

Why Change?

- Eligibility Decisions – Developmental Index (DI)
- Budgeting and Rate Reimbursement – ICAP
- Person-Centered Planning – ICAP

Modernizing Practices



Assessment Tool Considerations

Assessment Tool Needs:

- Provide reliable results through a standardized assessment
- Centers participants in the assessment process
- A single tool that provides comprehensive information

Assessment Tool Considerations, Continued

Children Assessment Tools Considered:

- SIS-C: Supports Intensity Scale
- interRAI Child and Youth Mental Health – Developmental Disabilities (ChYMH-DD)

Assessment Tool Considerations, Continued

Adult Assessment Tools Considered:


- SIS-A2: Supports Intensity Scale
- interRAI Intellectual Disability (ID) Assessment

Assessment Tool Considerations, Continued

Reasons for Exclusion

- SIS-A2 and SIS-C:
 - Not designed for eligibility determinations
 - For use as part of person-centered planning

Proposed Assessment Tool Changes



interRAI ID Assessment (Adult)

- Recommended for use with individuals age 18 and over

interRAI ChYMh-DD Assessment (Children)

- Recommended for use through the age of 18
- May be used through the age of 21

Reasons for Proposed Change



- Single tool for eligibility, budget generation, acuity-based rates, and person-centered planning
- Includes Collaborative Action Plans (CAPs)
- Captures existing supports contributing to an individual's success

interRAI ChYMh-DD Areas of Assessment

- **Section A: Identification Information**
- **Section B: Intake and Initial History**
- **Section C: Mental Health Indicators**
- **Section D: Substance Use or Excessive Behavior**
- **Section E: Harm to Self and Others**
- **Section F: Behavior**
- **Section G: Strengths and Resilience**
- **Section H: Cognition and Executive Functioning**
- **Section I: Independence in Daily Activities**
- **Section J: Communication**
- **Section K: Hearing, Vision, and Motor**
- **Section L: Health Conditions**
- **Section M: Family and Social Relations**
- **Section N: Psychosocial Well-Being**
- **Section O: Stress and Trauma**
- **Section P: Medications**
- **Section Q: Prevention, Service Utilization, Treatments**
- **Section R: Nutritional Status**
- **Section S: Education**
- **Section T: Environmental Assessment**
- **Section U: Diagnostic and Other Health Information**
- **Section V: Service Termination**
- **Section W: Discharge**
- **Section X: Assessment Information**

interRAI ChYMh-DD Adolescent Supplement

- **Section A: Identification Information**
- **Section B: Substance Use or Excessive Behavior**
- **Section C: Parental Status (Youth as Parent)**
- **Section D: Independence in Daily Activities**
- **Section E: Prevention, service Utilization, Treatments**
- **Section F: Strengths**
- **Section G: Mental Health and Well-Being**
- **Section H: Assessment Information**

interRAI ChYMh-DD CAPs

Safety CAPs

- Control Interventions
- Hazardous Fire Involvement
- Injurious Behavior
- Sexual Behavior
- Suicidality and Purposeful Self-Harm
- Traumatic Life Events

Family and Social Integration CAPs

- Caregiver Distress
- Parenting
- Social Relations

Functional Status CAPs

- Accessibility and Mobility
- Communication
- Life Skills
- Play and Leisure

interRAI ChYMh-DD CAPs - Continued

Health Promotions CAPs

- Continence
- Medication Adherence
- Medication Review
- Modified Nutrition Intake
- Problem Eating Behavior
- Sleep Management
- Strengths

Services and Supports CAPs

- Education Support
- Transitions

interRAI ID Areas of Assessment

- **Section A: Identification Information**
- **Section B: Intake and Initial History**
- **Section C: Community and Social Involvement**
- **Section D: Strengths, Relationships, and Supports**
- **Section E: Lifestyle**
- **Section F: Environmental Assessment**
- **Section G: Communication and Vision**
- **Section H: Cognition**
- **Section I: Health Conditions**
- **Section J: Independence in Everyday Activities**
- **Section K: Oral and Nutritional Status**
- **Section L: Mood and Behavior**
- **Section M: Medications**
- **Section N: Supports and Services**
- **Section O: Diagnostic Information**
- **Section P: Discharge Information**
- **Section Q: Assessment Information**

interRAI ID CAPs

- **Abuse by Others**
- **Communication**
- **Continence**
- **Injurious Behavior**
- **Meaningful Activities**
- **Mental Illness**
- **Social Relationships**

Pilot Period



- Before implementation, pilot period is used to collect data and analyze interRAI impact on eligibility, budgets, and service planning
- Pilot timeline: September 2024 – January 2025
- No decisions will be made using the interRAI during the pilot period

Benefits of the interRAI Suite

A person's hand is pointing at a document on a table. The document features a line graph and a bar chart. Other documents and a laptop are visible in the background. The image has a teal overlay.

State Benefits

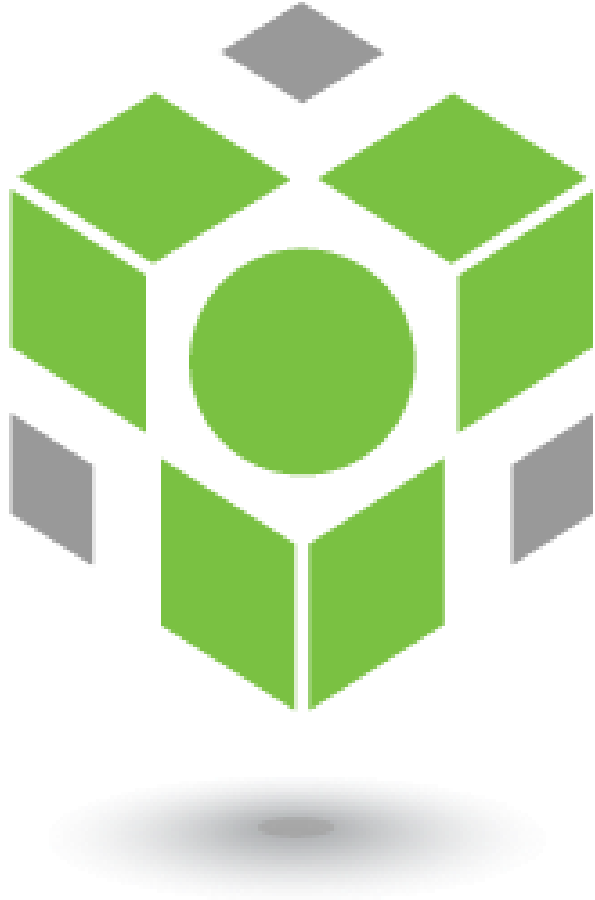
- Questions conform to current and proposed Nebraska regulation
- Allows additional questions and some response modifications for state adjustments if necessary
- Saves state administrative funding resources by operating as a single assessment for multiple purposes

Federal Benefits

- Normed and validated for the I/DD population
- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) encourages use of standardized assessments
- Supports person-centered conversations



CONTACT US



- Julia Kotchevar, Director:
jkotchevar@mslc.com
- Jackie George, Senior Manager:
jgeorge@mslc.com
- Alisha Golec, Senior Health Care Consultant:
agolec@mslc.com

Family Stakeholder Event

June 2024

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HCBS Waiver Eligibility

To be eligible to receive **any HCBS waiver**, a person must:

- Be a citizen or legal resident of the United States;
- Be a legal resident of the state of Nebraska;
- Be eligible for and receive **Nebraska Medicaid**;
- Meet waiver Level of Care requirement; and
- Have a need for waiver services.

For Medicaid waiver services, the eligibility of the child is determined based on their own income and assets, not the parents' income. This can allow children with disabilities or special needs to qualify for Medicaid even if their parents have a high income.

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DD Waiver Eligibility

Developmental disability is defined in [Neb. Rev. Stat. §83-1205](#):

- A **diagnosis** prior to the age of 22 years that is expected to continue indefinitely,
 - A severe, chronic disability, including intellectual disability, other than mental illness, which is attributable to a mental or physical impairment.
- The disability must result in **substantial functional limitations** in each of the following areas of adaptive function:
 - **Conceptual** – language, literacy, money, time, number concepts, and adaptive functioning.
 - **Social** – interpersonal, social responsibility, self-esteem, gullibility, wariness, social problem solving, ability to follow laws and rules, and avoid being victimized.
 - **Practical** – daily living, personal care, occupational skills, healthcare, and mobility.

The FSW is a DD Waiver and has the same eligibility requirements as the CDD and DDAD waivers.

Level of Care for DD Waivers

- The Level of Care (LOC) required for DD Waivers is an Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IDD)
- LOC is assessed once eligibility is determined and then again each year while on the waiver
- Currently DDD uses the Developmental Index (DI)
- Moving forward, DDD plans to use the interRAI

FSW Prioritization

FSW Offers are being made in the following order:

- 1) Children with disabilities and family units in crisis situations in which the child tends to self-injure or injure siblings and other family members.
- 2) Children with disabilities who are at risk for placement in juvenile detention centers, or other institutional settings, or out-of-home placements.
- 3) Children with disabilities whose primary caretakers are grandparents because no other family caregivers are available to provide care.
- 4) Families who have more than one child with disabilities living in the family home.
- 5) Based on date of application.

Per [Neb. Rev. Stat. §68-1532](#)

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FSW Offer Letters

- FSW offer letters are mailed and should be completed and returned by individual or their legal representative.
- If no response is received, follow-up phone calls or emails may occur.
- If an offer is declined, the family can reach out to request services when needed.
- When an offer is accepted:
 - DDD verifies Nebraska Medicaid category that allows Home and Community Based waiver services
 - Determine Social Security disability status

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Special Considerations

- **If an individual does NOT have waiver-eligible Nebraska Medicaid, DDD:**
 - Verifies recent Medicaid application (within 90 days) or active Medicaid
 - Notifies Medicaid partner of waiver acceptance
 - Sends a request for State Review Team (SRT) to determine disability per Social Security guidelines
 - SRT reaches out for necessary documentation
 - Services are unable to start, until Medicaid is active and SRT is complete

- **Once an individual has waiver-eligible Nebraska Medicaid and disability determined**
 - A Service Coordinator (SC) is assigned to contact family and begin the process to establish services

Sometimes, a person seeking Medicaid coverage or waiver services must prove they have a disability in order to qualify for coverage or services.

If an individual does not have a disability determination from the Social Security Administration (SSA), Medicaid's State Review Team can make the disability determination.

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Service Coordination

- Once a person accepts the FSW offer, a Service Coordinator (SC) is assigned.
- The SC is from a local DHHS office.
- The SC will contact the person and their guardian and answer any questions they have, ask questions, and set up a time to meet in person.
- The SC is there to support what the participant wants.
- The SC can attend IEP meetings.
 - FSW services cannot overlap school services.
 - Habilitation should compliment the learning at school.
- The SC oversees and monitors waiver services.

The Individual Support Plan (ISP)

- Participants use Charting the LifeCourse tools to help them plan their “good life.”
- The SC writes the person-centered plan, called the ISP.
 - The ISP plans for a year and can be revised whenever needed.
 - It identifies services, supports, and resources the participant will use.
- Meetings to develop and revise the ISP include the participant, their family, providers, and anyone else the participant wants to invite.
- The ISP is based on the participant’s personal goals and preferences, and assessments of strengths and needs:
 - What a person **wants** (what’s important *to* them) and
 - What a person **needs** (what’s important *for* them).

The ISP is required before waiver services can begin.

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Resources

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FSW Publications

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Family Support Waiver

WHAT IS THE FAMILY SUPPORT WAIVER (FSW)?

The FSW provides services to children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This waiver is to provide support and allows families to live together.

The waiver serves up to 850 participants, ages birth to 21 years old, who live with non-paid family caregivers.

Each participant has a maximum annual budget of \$10,000.

WHAT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE?

Assistive Technology

Community Integration

Environmental Modification Assessment

Family and Peer Monitoring

Homemaker

Personal Emergency Response System (PERS)

Supported Family Living

Vehicle Modification

Child Day Habilitation

Day Supports

Family Caregiver Training

Home Modification

Independent Living

Respite

Transportation

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE FAMILY SUPPORT WAIVER?

To be eligible for the FSW, a child must have a developmental disability, be eligible for Medicaid and meet the level of care for an Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID).

A person can be on the FSW while waiting on the Registry for the Comprehensive Developmental Disabilities (CDD) Waiver.

WHERE DO I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

For more information, visit our DD Services webpage at: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/DD-Service-Array.aspx> and scroll to the section titled "Family Support Waiver (FSW)."

For information about applying, visit our Eligibility webpage at: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/DD-Eligibility.aspx> and scroll to the section titled "Applying for DD Waiver Services."

Developmental Disabilities Services

Family Support Waiver (FSW)

Overview, Eligibility, & Funding Priorities

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Funding Offers for the FSW

person must be on the DD Registry waiting for DD waiver services to receive a FSW funding offer.

DD contacts whomever is legally responsible for the person and offers a FSW slot. This waiver provides \$10,000 funding for the year.

person must accept a FSW slot to become a participant and receive their \$10,000 budget.

Local Service Coordinator (SC) is assigned to the participant.

SC helps the participant choose which services and providers to use to meet their needs.

The participant's SC completes a referral for agency provider the participant is interested in working with.

The participant's SC helps any independent providers with enrollment.

SC holds an intake person-centered meeting to discuss FSW services and assign responsibility to chosen providers.

SC completes service authorizations assigning funding to providers.

Providers can begin providing services once they acknowledged the service authorization for services they are providing.

Nebraska Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Family Support Waiver (FSW)

SERVICES QUICK GUIDE

The Quick Guide is an introduction to services and may be used to decide which services to consider. Read more about services in the DD Policy Manual; Chapter 8 outlines service definitions, limitations, and what types of providers can offer each service. Your Service Coordinator will also explain services and discuss provider options.

2024

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Waitlist Elimination Website



<https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/DD-Wait-List.aspx>

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Next Steps

Update Your Information

- Ensure your contact information is current at Access Nebraska online or by toll free at (855) 632-7633
- Accurate addresses and phone numbers help us reach you promptly

We'll Be in Touch in the Fall

- Expect further communication and updates from us in the fall
- Confirm needs and provide information on program eligibility and resources

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Questions

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Contact

General Information

dhhs.developmentaldisabilities@nebraska.gov

DD Eligibility and the Waitlist

dhhs.ddeligibility@nebraska.gov

Toll-free (877) 667-6266



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