

## Formal Agenda

### DBHDS SIS-A 3rd Edition Advisory Group

11:00AM-12:45PM – Thursday October 30, 2023

Online Zoom Meeting (see link below)

#### AGENDA

11:00 Welcome and Housekeeping

11:05 Questions and Answers

11:15 Informational Meeting Updates

11:30 SIS-A Current Use

11:40 Advance Questions

11:50 Medical and Behavioral Levels

12:00 Supplemental Questions and Discussion

12:40 Next steps, Question/Feedback Form, and Survey

12:45 Adjournment

#### Zoom Meeting Information

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86445201428>

Or One tap mobile:

+17193594580,,86445201428# US

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Or Telephone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

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+1 669 444 9171 US

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 689 278 1000 US

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 305 224 1968 US

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Human Services  
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# Virginia SIS-A 2nd Edition Advisory Group

November 2023

# Housekeeping

Some of the people in this meeting are advisory group members who will participate in the discussion. Everyone else is welcome to type questions in the chat or send your questions to [SIS@dbhds.virginia.gov](mailto:SIS@dbhds.virginia.gov).

Everyone's participation is voluntary. You do not need to participate in any discussion, polls, or chats.

This meeting is hosted by HSRI and may not reflect the views of Virginia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services (DBHDS).

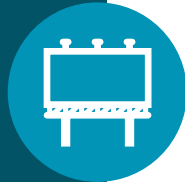
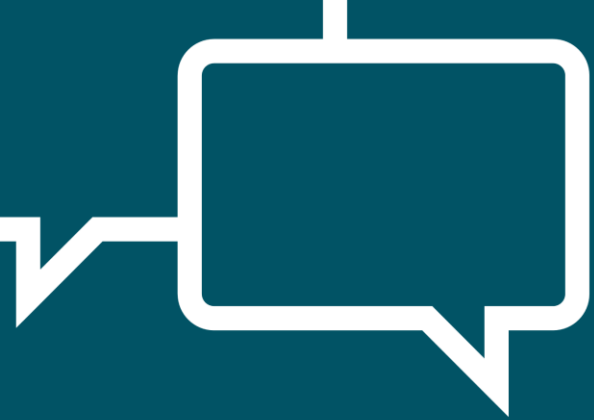
This meeting is being recorded, as a tool for advisory group members to watch later if they had to miss today.

Please mute yourself when you are not talking.

Please allow all advisory group members the opportunity to speak up!

# Working Collaboratively

- Be solution-focused and provide supportive and constructive feedback. Let's keep focused on the end goal of updating the support levels/rate tiers
- Respect and listen, don't blame
- Assume good intentions
- When sharing verbally, try to keep response brief and wait, so that others have time to speak. If you want to share more, you can always type in the chat, add comments to the form, e-mail, or request a separate meeting to discuss
- This is an interactive meeting! We encourage you to participate!



# Agenda

**Informational Meetings**



**SIS & Advance Questions**



**Medical & Behavioral Levels**



**Next Steps**

# In the Advisory Group:

- You will hear about our upcoming plans for this project
- You will have opportunities to provide ideas and feedback about this project and what we recommend
- You can ask questions
- You will review our analysis and recommendations
- You can help us make sure that our plans work for people receiving services, their families, advocates, support coordinators, and providers

We will meet monthly from September 2023 through April 2024 for 90 minutes to 2 hours per meeting







# Informational Meetings



# Informational Meeting Updates

- This month HSRI and our partners, Burns & Associates held informational meetings with:
  - Service Recipients & Families on November 16th, 2023, from 2:00-3:45ET
    - There were about 20 participants
  - Support Coordinators on November 16th, 2023, from 10:00-11:45ET
    - There were about 61 participants
  - Providers on November 15th, 2023, from 11:00-12:45ET
    - There were about 63 participants
  - We received, and answered, several questions
  - Videos will be posted to DBHDS's YouTube:  
<https://www.youtube.com/c/VirginiaDBHDS>

# We asked what is working well with the support levels and rate tiers?

- Equitably support different needs
- Allow people to receive services that match their needs
- 3<sup>rd</sup> party interviewers are unbiased
- Captures lower support needs and behavioral supports needs well
- Helps with financial planning

# We asked what challenges are there with the current support levels and rate tiers?

- Concerns about consistency
- Reassessment process can be difficult, providers may seek reassessment if they believe higher tier is needed
- Timeliness of tier changes can be difficult
- Staffing issues are challenging (number of staff, finding available services, paying for services when tiered services are not available)
- Sometimes tiers don't match needs, providers may be unlikely to serve
- Customized rate process is complex

# We asked what would make the support levels or rate tiers work better??

- More services using tiers
- Secondary review of assessments
- Consistency among assessors
- Want more transparency on how tiers are determined and need more education about tiers



# SIS & Advance Questions



# Supports Intensity Scale

- Supports Intensity Scale® (SIS) Adult (SIS-A) is developed by the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disability (AAIDD)
- SIS-A measures support needed for:
  - 2A: Home Living Activities (8 items)
  - 2B: Community Living Activities (8 items)
  - 2C: Lifelong Learning Activities (9 items, future 2D)
  - 2D: Employment Activities (8 items, future 2E Work Activities)
  - 2E: Health and Safety Activities (8 items, future 2C)
  - 2F: Social Activities (8 items)
  - 3: Protection and Advocacy Activities (8 items, future 2G Advocacy Activities)
  - 1A: Exceptional Medical Support Needs (19 current items)
  - 1B: Exceptional Behavioral Needs (13 current items)



# Current Use of the SIS

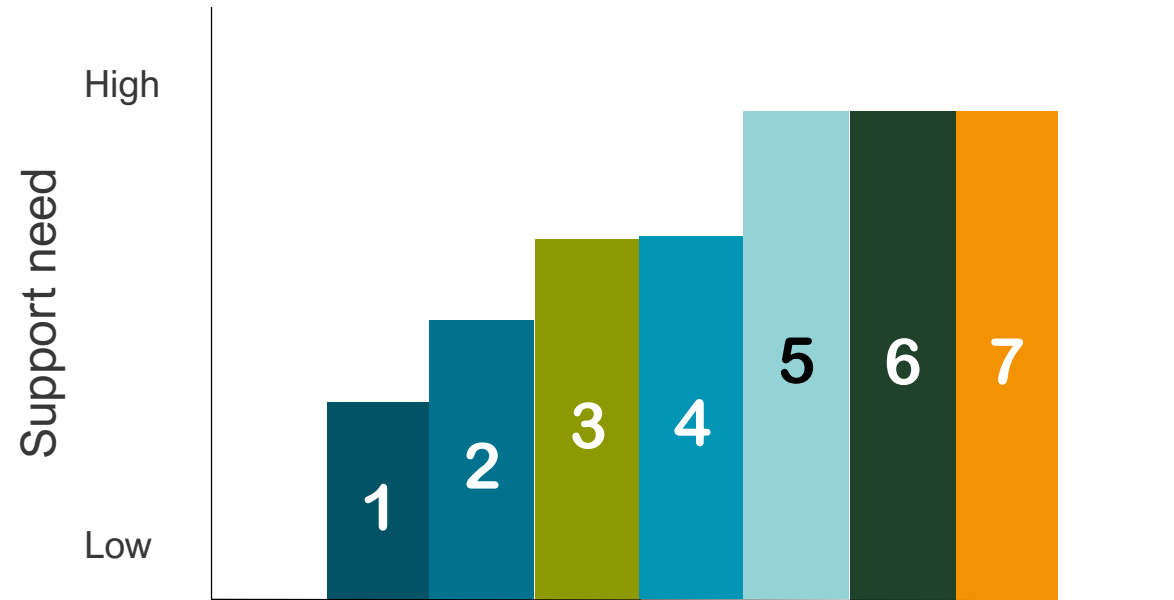
- SIS scores are used to assign everyone who takes a SIS assessment a support level, along with the supplemental questions, and document review verification for some people
- Currently, people are assigned to support levels using sections:
  - 2A. Home Living Activities
  - 2B. Community Living Activities
  - 2E. Health and Safety Activities (future 2C)
  - 1A: Exceptional Medical Support Needs (25 future items)
  - 1B: Exceptional Behavioral Support Needs (14 future items)
- In the future, DBHDS may continue to use these sections, may use additional sections, or may use Supports Needs Index (SNI) – a score of all seven subsections of section 2 of the SIS

# The SIS-A 2nd Edition

DBHDS is using advance questions, rather than switching to the SIS-A 2nd Edition now

- There are 6 medical advance questions
- There is 1 behavioral advance questions
- DBHDS has collected over 1,500 advance questions
- Advance questions will support HSRI to update the support level framework

# Current 7 Levels



# Level Descriptions

1

**Mild Support Needs** – Individuals have some need for support, including little to no support need for medical and behavioral challenges. They can manage many aspects of their lives independently or with little assistance.

2

**Moderate Support Needs** – Individuals have modest or moderate support needs, but little to no need for medical behavioral supports. They need more support than those in Level 1 but may have minimal needs in some life areas.

3

**Mild/Moderate Support Needs with Some Behavioral Support Needs** – Individuals have little to moderate support needs as in Levels 1 and 2. They also have an increased, but not significant, support needed due to behavioral challenges.

4

**Moderate to High Support Needs** – Individuals have moderate to high need for support. They may have behavioral support needs that are not significant but range from not to above average.

5

**Maximum Support Needs** – Individuals have high to maximum personal care and/or medical support needs. They may have behavioral support needs that are not significant but range from none to above average.

6

**Intensive Medical Support Needs** – Individuals have intensive need for medical support but also may have similar support need to individuals in Level 5. They may have some need for support due to behavior that is not significant.

7

**Intensive Behavioral Support Needs** – Individuals have intensive behavioral challenges, regardless of their support needs to complete daily activities or for medical conditions. These adults typically need significantly enhanced supports due to behavior.





# Medical and Behavioral Levels

# Medical & Behavioral Levels

- People can be assigned to medical and behavioral levels in two different ways.
- People can be assigned to medical and behavioral levels either by
  - Having high scores in section 1A or 1B
  - Having answers to supplemental questions confirmed by the document verification committee
- Medical and behavioral levels are reserved for people with the highest medical and behavioral support needs
- People in reimbursement tier 4 are assigned to the highest general support needs level, medical level, or behavioral level

# Supplemental Questions

There are 4 different supplemental questions

- 1 question for medical that is used to identify people for the medical level
- 2 questions for community safety risk that are used to identify people for the behavioral level
- 1 question for risk of injury to self that is used to identify people for the behavioral level

Supplemental questions relate to SIS items

# Medical Support Level Description

6

**Intensive Medical Support Needs** – Individuals have intensive need for medical support but also may have similar support need to individuals in Level 5. They may have some need for support due to behavior that is not significant.

# Behavioral Support Level Description

3

**Mild/Moderate Support Needs with Some Behavioral Support Needs** – Individuals have little to moderate support needs as in Levels 1 and 2. They also have an increased, but not significant, support needed due to behavioral challenges.

7

**Intensive Behavioral Support Needs** – Individuals have intensive behavioral challenges, regardless of their support needs to complete daily activities or for medical conditions. These adults typically need significantly enhanced supports due to behavior.



# Supplemental Questions – Medical

The medical supplemental question asks about supports identified in the SIS that relate to significant medical needs such as as inhalation or oxygen therapy, suctioning, protection from infectious diseases, and so forth, as well as medical support needs not addressed in the SIS. The medical supplemental question asks about:

- Medical plans in place
- Professional supervision required
- Amount of support required

# Supplemental Questions –Community Safety Risk

The community safety risk supplemental questions ask about supports identified in the SIS that relate to significant safety needs such as fire setting or arson, sexual aggression, assault, and so forth, as well as safety support needs not addressed in the SIS. The community safety risk supplemental questions ask about:

- Whether the person has been convicted of a crime or has ongoing legal obligations
- Whether the actions raise to the level of potential criminal activity
- Direct supervision or modifications to the home
- Amount of support required

# Supplemental Question – Risk of Injury to Self

The risk of injury to self supplemental question asks about supports identified in the SIS that relate to significant safety needs such as self-injury or suicide attempts, as well as safety support needs not addressed in the SIS. The risk of injury to self supplemental questions asks about:

- Whether the person requires supervision
- Prevention and intervention plans
- Amount of support required



# Next Steps

# Timeline



## April-June 2023

- Begin Contract Work
- Background research

## July-Sept. 2023

- Establish Advisory Group
- Key Informant Interviews
- Begin data analysis

## Oct.-December

- Continue Advisory Group meetings
- 1<sup>st</sup> Engagement Sessions
- Complete data analysis

## Jan.-April 2023

- Continue Advisory Group meetings
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Engagement Sessions
- Test proposed changes
- Recommend final changes
- Complete implementation & communication plan



# What's Next?



- If you're listening in and have used your e-mail for this meeting, we'll add your e-mail to the next meeting invite (optional, of course)
- If you want to ask a question or share feedback, please use this link:  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc21y4XpMleJZ9AGWtPuiR8c1PeZr5r-luU8raVtq3JYmwsug/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc21y4XpMleJZ9AGWtPuiR8c1PeZr5r-luU8raVtq3JYmwsug/viewform?usp=sf_link) or scan for the form.



**Questions/Comments**



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# Thank you!

Please use our form for questions/feedback. If you need help related to these meetings reach out Jodi Franck [jfranck@hsri.org](mailto:jfranck@hsri.org)

If you need help from DBHDS, please e-mail [SIS@dbhds.virginia.gov](mailto:SIS@dbhds.virginia.gov)





  
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