Formal Agenda

DBHDS SIS-A 2nd Edition Advisory Group

12:00PM-1:30PM – Thursday May 16, 2024

Online Zoom Meeting (see link below)

AGENDA

12:00 Welcome and Housekeeping

12:10 Questions and Answers

12:20 Recommendations

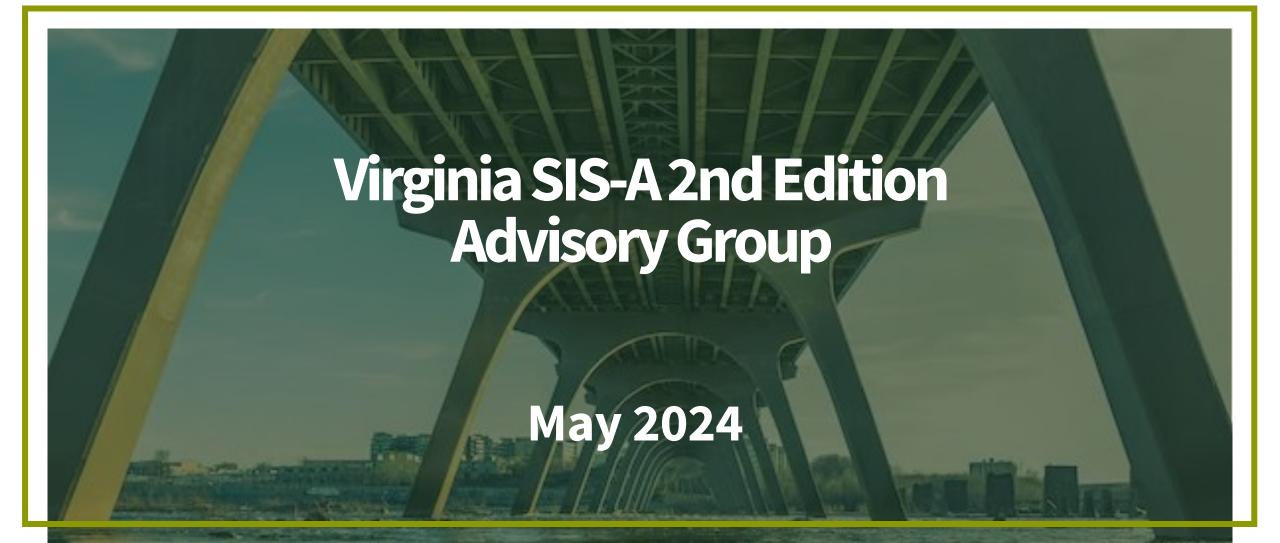12:45 Transition Plan

1:05 Communications

1:20 Next steps, Question/Feedback Form, and Survey

1:30 Adjournment

Zoom Meeting Information

Please click the link below to join the webinar:
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83894131222
Or One tap mobile :
    +13462487799,,83894131222# US (Houston)
    +16694449171,,83894131222# US
Or Telephone:
    Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):
    +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
    +1 669 444 9171 US
    +1 719 359 4580 US
    +1 720 707 2699 US (Denver)
    +1 253 205 0468 US
    +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
    +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
    +1 305 224 1968 US
    +1 309 205 3325 US
    +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
    +1 360 209 5623 US
    +1 386 347 5053 US
    +1 507 473 4847 US
    +1 564 217 2000 US
    +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
    +1 646 931 3860 US
    +1 689 278 1000 US
Webinar ID: 838 9413 1222
    International numbers available: https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kcRqkoeJYy

Virginia SIS-A 2nd Edition Advisory Group

May 2024

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.

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! Limit comments to about 1 minute.

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!

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Agenda

Recommendations

Transition Plan

Communications

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

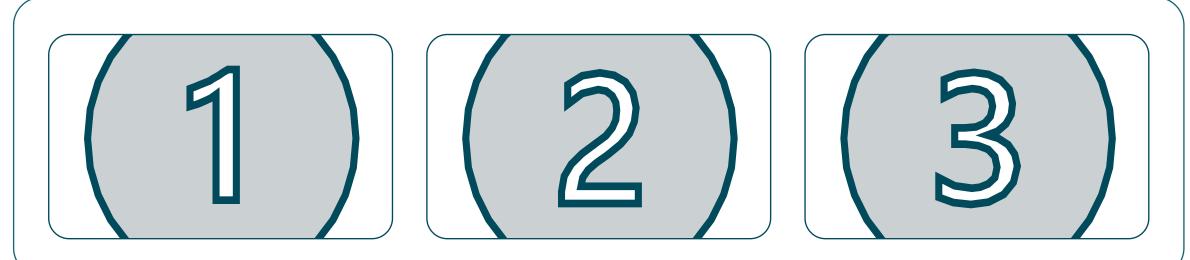We will meet monthly from September 2023 through April 2024 for 90 minutes to 2 hours per meeting

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Find a Regulation

Regulatory Activity

Actions Underway

Petitions

Legislative Mandates

Periodic Reviews

General Notices

Meetings

Guidance Documents

Comment Forums

Sign in

State Agency

Registered Public

Agency	Department of Medical Assistance Services
Board	Board of Medical Assistance Services

Meeting: SIS-A® 2nd Edition Advisory Group Meeting 4   Electronic Access

Meeting Details

Date / Time	12/19/2023 12:00 pm
Type	Electronic Only
Electronic Access	Meeting time: 12:00-2:00 Electronic Access: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81441194053
Board Website	http//www.dmas.virginia.gov
Agenda document	📄 Meeting Agenda 12/13/2023 (1034k)
Minutes document	📄 Meeting minutes 1/9/2024 (458k) FINAL
Disability Friendly? Yes	Deaf interpreter available upon request? Yes

Purpose of the meeting

Since 2015, DBHDS has used the Supports Intensity Scale® (SIS)® assessment to determine rates for specific services. The SIS assessment is changing and DBHDS has a project to update this model. DBHDS wants to hear from people receiving services and other interested people. DBHDS is working with an advisory group to support this project. The public is welcome to listen in on this advisory group meeting.

Meeting Scope

☐ Public hearing to receive comment on a proposed stage

☒ General business of the board

Project Activities

1

Consult people

- Advisory group
- Key informant interviews
- Engagement sessions

2

Analyze changes to support levels/rate tiers

- Review supplemental questions and verification process
- Analyze the new SIS scoring and the advanced questions
- Analyze the rate tiers
- Test out the proposed changes with a record review

3

Recommend changes to support levels/rate tiers

- Propose final recommendations
- Develop a transition plan
- Develop a communication plan to help support the implementation

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Timeline

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4+

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
- 1st Engagement Sessions
- Complete data analysis

Jan.-June 2024
- Continue Advisory Group meetings
- 2nd & 3rd Engagement Sessions
- Test proposed changes
- Recommend final changes
- Complete implementation & communication plan

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Recommendations

A Bit of Feedback

"The levels equitably support the needs of the individuals and services provided."

"Continue to use contractors as interviewers as they tend to be less biased."

"The support levels are working good."

" When the SIS is accurate it seems to capture behavioral supports well for the tiers."

"SIS coordinator seems to be very prepared and helpful."

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How we Formed Recommendations

Data analysis

Key informant interviews

Review of policy/documents

Lessons learned from other jurisdictions

Feedback from this Advisory Group

Feedback from informational meetings

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Considerations

- We haven't finalized our recommendations, transition plan, or communications plan

- As we finalize these we may add to or alter what we share today

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Implementation

- Implementation of the SIS-A® 2nd Edition is tentatively scheduled to begin October 1, 2024

- After the SIS-A® 2nd Edition is implemented, it will take about four years for everyone to get assessed and receive a new support level and/or rate tier, as applicable

- Until October 1, 2024, people will continue to participate in the SIS as scheduled and will not be reassessed until their next assessment is due or they qualify for a reassessment
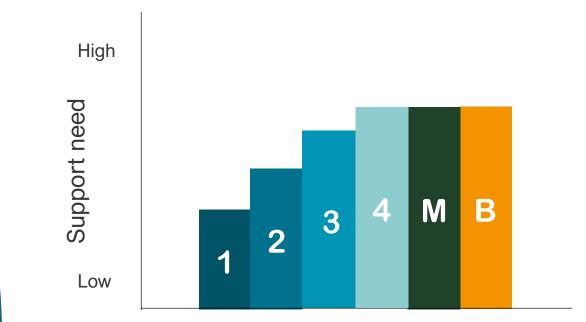
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Proposed Support Levels/Rate Tiers

- We propose moving from 7 support levels to 6 support levels

- We propose using all sections and subsections of the SIS to assign support levels/rate tiers

- We propose keeping the crosswalk from support levels and rate tiers the same

- This proposal will increase costs for some waiver services

Preliminary Support Levels

1	Low general support need, no extraordinary medical or behavioral needs
2	Moderate general support need, no extraordinary medical or behavioral needs
3	High general support need, no extraordinary medical or behavioral needs
4	Very high general support need, no extraordinary medical or behavioral needs
M	Extraordinary medical support need
B	Extraordinary behavioral support need

Preliminary Rate Tiers

Tier	Current Support Level	Proposed Support Level	Support Level Descriptions
1	1	1	Low general support need, no extraordinary medical or behavioral needs
2	2	2	Moderate general support need, no extraordinary medical or behavioral needs
3	4	3	High general support need, no extraordinary medical or behavioral needs
4	5	4	Very high general support need, no extraordinary medical or behavioral needs
4	6	M	Extraordinary medical support need
4	7	B	Extraordinary behavioral support need

*Support Level 3 will not be included in proposed support levels

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Assessment

Scheduling Assessments

- Assess same approximate number of people per year

Assessment Process

- Convey expectations for people and families to speak up
- Encourage people who know the person best to attend

Supplemental Questions

- Reduce and simplify SQs
- Strengthen document review verification

Using the SIS

- Monitor Risk Assessment Tool (RAT) alignment with SIS
- Integrate SIS into Person-Centered Plan

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System Analysis and Evaluation

System Analysis

- Track system metrics
- Track implementation
- Use support levels/rate tiers to track specific initiatives or requirements

Evaluation

- Consider ongoing evaluation
- Time evaluation with other efforts

Not Recommending Changes To:

- Current children's support levels

- Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the SIS

- SIS reassessment request process (except to ensure that reassessments are sought when there are changes noted in the RAT)

- Customized rate process

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Transition Plan

Implementing Proposed Changes

Implementing Support Levels

- Update support levels in all systems
- Integrate support levels/rate tiers into existing systems

Test Support Levels

- Test initially and conduct routine quality checks

Secure Funding

- Ensuring that funding is available to implement over 4 years

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Policy

Administrative Codes

- 12VAC30-122-200 and 12VAC30-122-210 need to be updated
- Use Medicaid Memo to outline changes

Waivers

- References to 7 support levels in Building Independence, Community Living, and Family and Individual Support Waivers will need to be updated

Communications

Communication

Communicating Changes

- General communications outlining changes
- Plain language and simple
- Should outline why, benefits/risks, and provide context

Changing Support Levels

- Information explaining support level/tier crosswalk

Education

People and Families

- Continue education about the support levels/rate tiers
- Set expectations for SIS
- Clear avenues for communication

CSBs, Providers, DBDHS

- Share update in quarterly CSB training
- New provider training, optional ongoing training, and updates
- Dedicated education to workgroups

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Next Steps

Next Steps

- Upcoming informational meetings

- We will be preparing our final recommendations

- We will be developing a transition plan

- We will be developing a communication plan

- Expecting to complete project by June!

Timeline

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What's Next?

- Feel free to join us for our upcoming 3rd round of informational meetings.

- If you want to ask a question or share feedback, please use this link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc21y4XpMleJZ9AGWtPuiR8c1PeZr5r-IuU8raVtq3JYmwsug/viewform?usp=sf_link or scan for the form.

Upcoming Outreach

Service Recipients & Families

Friday May 31st

1:00-3:00pm EST

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85964725464

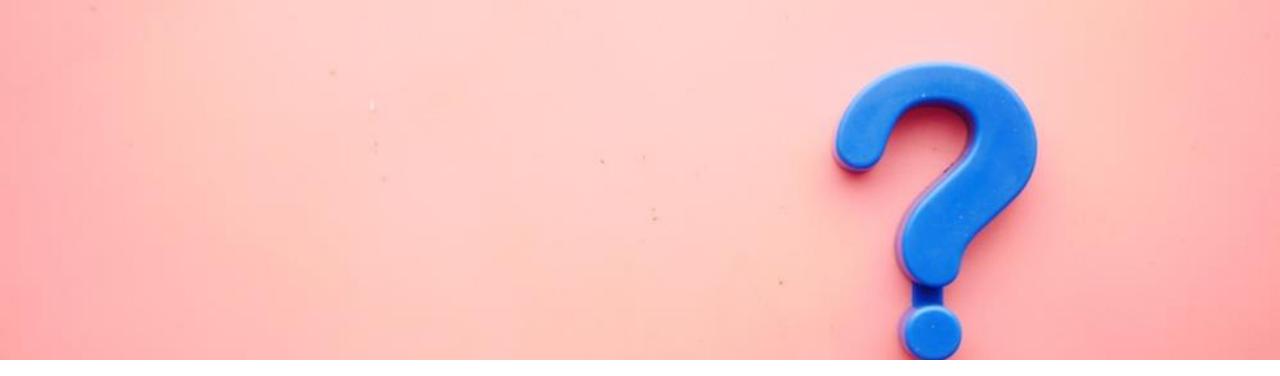**Support Coordinators**

Wednesday May 29th

1:00-3:00pm EST

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85964725464

Providers

Wednesday May 29th

11:00-1:00pm EST

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85964725464

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Questions/Comments

Human Services Research Institute

Thank you!

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

If you need help from DBHDS, please e-mail SIS@dbhds.virginia.gov