The Supports Intensity Scale (SIS®) in North Carolina

Presented by:

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In Partnership with DHHS Division of Medical Assistance and your Local Management Entity- Managed Care Organization
What will you learn today?
Forum Agenda

What the SIS assessment is and who created it

What the assessment measures

What the assessment interview will be like

Examples of assessment questions and ratings

How YOU can prepare for an interview

Implementation of the SIS in North Carolina
Introduction

North Carolina’s Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is improving the system of services offered to people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. Innovations Plus is the name given to activities undertaken to:

Create a more equitable system
Use resources efficiently and effectively
Make sure people get the right support for their needs
Steps Of Innovations Plus

Using the SIS
Individual Budget
Plan and Purchase Services
Evaluate Individual and System Outcomes
The first step in implementing Innovations Plus is to:

- use an objective assessment called the Supports Intensity Scale or SIS
- find out about the support needs of people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities participating in the North Carolina Innovations Waiver
Step 1: Use of the Supports Intensity Scale® (SIS)

Community Forums
To educate about the SIS and prepare waiver participants for their SIS interview

Build SIS examiner capacity and infrastructure within the LME-MCO(s).

Conduct SIS assessments
What makes the Supports Intensity Scale Unique and why is North Carolina using it?

The SIS is a comprehensive, standardized, reliable and valid support needs assessment.

It is positive and supports oriented.
What makes the Supports Intensity Scale Unique and why is North Carolina using it?

SIS uses a small group interview:

To fully involve individuals and other respondents

To consider supports needed to meet individual needs and promote personal growth.

It helps us to better understand the supports needed by someone to have an “Everyday Life”
What makes the Supports Intensity Scale Unique and why is North Carolina using it?

To enhance the person centered planning process
To replace the NC-SNAP for all individuals participating in the Innovations Waiver
SIS gives solid information about support needs that can be used to make a reliable collective comparison of consumers’ needs across the State
Collect data to begin planning for a systematic process for determining distribution of funding based on intensity of need
Orientation Video

DDTI Orientation Video
What it is not

SIS is not a test
SIS is not a diagnostic evaluation or psychological evaluation
SIS does not provide a diagnosis or determination of medical necessity
Supports Intensity Scale

SIS is endorsed by the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Developed over a 5 year period

National team of experts in the field of developmental disabilities
### SIS In the US

- West Virginia
- Colorado
- Georgia
- Louisiana
- Michigan
- Missouri
- Kentucky
- Maryland
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- Utah
- Virginia
- Washington
- New Mexico
- New Hampshire
International use of the SIS

- Europe
- Netherlands
- Belgium
- Italy
- Canada
- Ontario
- British Columbia
- Manitoba
SIS for Adults (SIS – A):

The SIS for adults is designed for individuals who are 16 years and older.

SIS for children (SIS – C):

The SIS for children is designed for ages 5-15 (under 16)
SIS for Adults (SIS – A):

The SIS for adults is “normed” – this means it was designed and proven based on a person’s support needs in comparison with other people with I/DD.
SIS for Children

SIS for Children – SIS-C:

SIS – C is in the process of being “normed”
Information is being gathered from NC and other states
Parents and/or guardians of children can decide whether or not to be included in the AAIDD norming data set
The process of norming is expected to be completed before Innovations Plus is implemented

The decision to participate or not participate will not affect the SIS results for their child
How Often?

Adults will get a new SIS assessment every 3 years.
Children will get a new SIS assessment every 2 years.
You may update your SIS before then if a big change occurs in your life that affects your support needs.
AAIDD Video

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQZQmQo19tQ

http://www.siswebsite.org/
Assessment Process

SIS Interview

Face-to-face

Team approach

At least two Respondents must participate
SIS Life Activity Domains

1. Part A: Home Living
2. Part B: Community Living
3. Part C: Lifelong Learning
4. Part D: Employment
5. Part E: Health & Safety
6. Part F: Social
   - Other Pertinent Information
     Protection & Advocacy
     Medical supports
     Behavioral supports
The SIS assessment measures support needs to find out:

- **what type** of support is needed
- **how often** support is needed
- **how much** support is needed
Type of Support

“What type of support would be needed?”

0 = *none*

1 = *monitoring* – reminders

2 = *verbal/gesture prompting* – step by step coaching, teaching of each step involved in the activity

3 = *partial physical assistance* – you can do some of the steps yourself, and some of the steps within the activity need to be done for you

4 = *full physical support* – nearly all or all of the steps of the activity need to be done for you.
Frequency of Support

Frequency: “How frequently would that support be needed?”

0 = *none or less than monthly*
1 = *at least once a month but not once a week*
2 = *at least once a week but not once a day*
3 = *at least once a day but not once an hour*
4 = *hourly or more frequently*
Daily Support Time

Daily Support Time: “How much time in any given day would that support take?”

0 = *none*

1 = *less than 30 minutes*

2 = *30 minutes to less than 2 hours*

3 = *2 hours to less than 4 hours*

4 = *4 hours or more*
Rating Scale

SIS Ratings

- Are determined without regard to the services or supports currently being provided.
- Reflect supports that would be necessary for the person to be successful if engaged in a particular activity.
SIS Ratings continued...

All items are completed by the SIS examiner even if the person is not currently performing a listed activity in order to determine an individual’s overall intensity of service needs.

Takes into consideration supports needed for participation at a later time.

If a person uses assistive technology the person is rated with the said technology in place.
What will an interview be like?
Who will be at the interview?

The Interviewer and

**Individual**
- Guardian, Parent or Family member
- 1-2 staff from home
- 1-2 staff from day or work
- Case Manager/Care Coordinator

The individuals who will be answering the questions, including the person being supported, are known as respondents.
Each person at the interview:

Should have known the person at least 3 months

Should know about supports needed

Should be prepared and feel free to share information when asked
Length of the interview

Together, the group meets with the interviewer. This will take about 2 hours but can take longer.
During the interview-YOU and others should:

Answer all the questions even if they don’t seem to apply to the person now or in the future
Be ready to describe supports if asked. This is what makes the assessment picture complete and person-centered
What if YOU know any topics that may:

Make the person feel uncomfortable or trigger uncomfortable responses?

Help the person tell the interviewer or
Tell the interviewer yourself, before the interview starts if possible
Who is the interviewer?

Only a person who is trained by AAIDD to do SIS assessments will ask the questions.

The training involves 3 phases:
  Classroom orientation instruction,
  Guided practice and
  Inter-Rater Quality Review.
What will the interviewer do?

- Explain the interview process
- Ask you the interview questions
- Write down your answers
- Complete an online computer generated report
The Interviewer will work with the group to reach agreement about supports needed, because...

- Not everyone sees the individual the same way or doing the same things
- Some items have many parts
- People need different supports in different settings
What Kind of Questions Will Be Asked at the Interview?
The interviewer will ask about:

All parts of a individual’s everyday life
Some areas that are very personal
Things that may not be happening now but could happen in the future

Let’s look at a few more sample questions
Example: In Community Living, a question you will be asked about is:

Interacting with community members:

*Do you need support to interact with community members?*

Focus of question is on the supports to promote positive and effective interactions with community members in whatever context they occur.

*Essential element*: interaction and communication with the general public.
Example: In Home Living, a question you will be asked about is:

Bathing-Personal Grooming: (Showering, bathing, shaving, brushing teeth)

The focus of this item is on supports to assist individuals with tasks associated with personal cleanliness, bathing and proper grooming.
Example: In Social Activity, a question you will be asked about is:

Participating in recreation/leisure activities with others:

The focus of this item is on supports to assist an individual to participate in community recreational and leisure activities

*Essential element:* to take part in and perform community activities
Example: In Health & Safety, a question you will be asked about is:

Taking medication: (At the correct time and prescribed level)

The focus of this item is related to following prescriptions and using over the counter medications to address an illness or injury.

**Essential element**: Taking medications properly.
What happens to the SIS Information?

LME-MCOs will receive the SIS reports. They will be shared with individuals and guardians/family members.

The information will be used for person centered planning and the development of the Individual Support Plan (ISP).
Implementation of the SIS in North Carolina
In Summary

Community Forums

DDTI in partnership with DMA and LME-MCOs is conducting community forums across the state

Build examiner capacity

LME MCO SIS staff training has been occurring and will continue
In Summary

All NC Innovations Waiver Participants will receive a SIS assessment.

NC-SNAP will continue for children and adults until such a time that the SIS is operationalized.
In Summary

DHHS is collecting support needs information on a representative sample of waiver recipients. By collecting information on a sample, the Department can get a better understanding of what needs people have and begin its planning.
In Summary

The sample will include about 5,200 waiver participants and includes people from:

- Different age groups (child/adult);
- Different types of residential option (i.e., group home, in-home); and
- Each of the new LME-MCO’s across the state.

DDTI is scheduling these SIS interviews

the interviews will be completed by AAIDD and LME-MCO staff.

SIS interviews started in September of 2012.
In Summary

There are many things to do before the new funding model can be implemented.

At the onset, DHHS is working hard to prepare for conducting SIS interviews and inform people about the SIS interviews.

DHHS expects that about 5,200 SIS interviews will be completed by Spring, 2013.

DHHS expects that the people will use the information collected during the SIS interview to help them develop their individual support plan.
In Summary

While the SIS interviews are being completed and studied, DHHS will work with the LME-MCOs to work out the details of the new system.

Later, DHHS will use the SIS interview information collected to help establish individualized budget allocations for everyone. Once you know your budget, you can also use that information to help you develop your support plan.

Individual budgets will not be implemented until a later time.
What Are the Next Steps?

Soon you will be able to find more information on the DHHS website.
What Outcomes Are Anticipated?

Once Innovations Plus is fully implemented statewide DHHS expects that two types of outcomes will result.

**Individual Outcomes.** DHHS expects that individuals will receive the services they need as addressed in each person’s support plan.

**System Level Outcomes.** DHHS expects that the new framework will provide a way to allocate resources that will make the system more fair, efficient and sustainable.
What Can I Expect Next?

If you have been selected to have a SIS interview you will be notified by your LME-MCO and DDTI. You and those that support you will be contacted regarding your appointment date, time, and location. AAIDD or your LME-MCO will conduct your SIS interview. Your SIS interview will occur prior to your annual planning meeting and the SIS assessment will be used to develop your individual support plan.
Questions And Answers
For More Information

Division of Medical Assistance
http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/lme/NCInnovations.html

AAIDD /Supports Intensity Scale: http://www.siswebsite.org/

Developmental Disabilities Training Institute:
http://ddti.unc.edu/SIS.asp
References


Human Services Research Institute (HSRI) Augusta, John, Fortune, Jon