

DDD UPDATE



Division of Developmental Disabilities
Member Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY
Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

January 2013

IN THIS ISSUE

New Assistant DDD Director

•

Agency with Choice A New Member Directed Service Option

•

Getting on the Path to a Healthier You

•

Frequently Asked Questions

•

FLU NEWS It's That Time Again!

•

DDAC Public Forum

•

Office of Consumer and Family Support Services

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

Under Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI & VII), and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) of 2008; the Department prohibits discrimination in admissions, programs, services, activities, or employment based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetics and retaliation.

The Department must make a reasonable accommodation to allow a person with a disability to take part in a program, service or activity. For example, this means if necessary, the Department must provide sign language interpreters for people who are deaf, a wheelchair accessible location, or enlarged print materials. It also means that the Department will take any other reasonable action that allows you to take part in and understand a program or activity, including making reasonable changes to an activity.

If you believe that you will not be able to understand or take part in a program or activity because of your disability, please let us know of your disability needs in advance if at all possible. To request this document in alternative format or for further information about this policy, contact the Division of Developmental Disabilities ADA Coordinator at 602-542-0419; TTY/TDD Services: 7-1-1. Free language assistance for DES services is available upon request. Ayuda gratuita con traducciones relacionadas con los servicios del DES está disponible a solicitud del cliente.

New DDD Assistant Director ♦ Dr. Larry L. Latham

Welcome to Dr. Larry Latham, the new Assistant Director for the Arizona Department of Economic Security's Division of Developmental Disabilities (DES/DDD). Dr. Latham assumed his duties on December 3, 2012. He brings over forty years of experience in the field of Developmental Disabilities. He partnered with providers, advocates, and families to develop community programs. The programs served people with developmental disabilities and mental illness. They were located in Alabama, Tennessee and Virginia. Dr. Latham established Alabama's first program for persons dually diagnosed with autism and cognitive disabilities. Most recently, as a Deputy Assistant Commissioner for Developmental Disabilities in the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health, Dr. Latham served as the CEO for a 500 bed state psychiatric hospital. The hospital served persons dually diagnosed with developmental disabilities and mental illness.

We look forward to the leadership Dr. Latham brings to the Arizona Division of Developmental Disabilities.

Agency with Choice A New Member - Directed Service Option

Beginning January 1, 2013, people who receive attendant care, habilitation or housekeeping services in their own home through the Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCs) will be able to choose a new option. The new option is known as Agency with Choice. Agency with Choice is not a separate "service" like attendant care or habilitation. Members can play a more active role in directing their own care. Under the new model, the member will enter into a co-employment relationship with the provider agency. The provider agency will serve as the legal employer of record. The member will act as the day-to-day managing employer of the direct care worker.

Agency with Choice presents an opportunity for members interested in directing their own care who would also like the support offered by a provider agency. Under this option, the member may choose to take on tasks such as selecting his/her direct care worker. The member can also determine the direct care worker's schedule and duties. Under Agency with Choice, the agency can hire and fire the worker. The agency also checks that the worker meets the minimum training standards.

You do not need to do anything now. This option is being phased in. Your support coordinator will talk with you about this and other options in your regularly scheduled visits. More information on member-directed options is available on the AHCCCS website at:

<http://www.azahcccs.gov/shared/SDAC.aspx?ID=notices>



FLU NEWS! IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!

—Annette Lammon-Belcher, R.N.
HEALTHCARE SERVICES MANAGER

THE FLU SEASON IS HERE!

The flu is highly contagious. Flu viruses change frequently and vaccines are reformulated each year. Getting vaccinated every year offers the best protection during the flu season.

Anyone six (6) months or older is recommended to get an annual flu shot. Persons considered "high risk" should have the flu vaccine. These include people having certain medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes, and chronic lung disease. It also includes pregnant women, persons sixty-five (65) and older, and those at risk for developing pneumonia. Direct household contacts and caregivers for those in the high risk group should also receive the vaccine. Contact your health care provider or PCP to schedule your flu vaccine today.

For more information: www.cdc.gov

Frequently Asked Questions



Question: I'm eligible for the Division and for Arizona Long Term Care Services (ALTCs). What does that mean?

Answer: The Division is an ALTCs Program Contractor for AHCCCS to provide Acute Medical Care, Long Term Care, and Behavioral Health Services.

The Division contracts with APIPA, Mercy Care and Care1st to provide acute medical services. The County in which you live determines which health plans are available to you. You should have a medical insurance card from the one you select.

Support Coordinators work with individuals and their families to identify home and community based services that are needed as well as residential services.

The Division has an Agreement with the Department of Health, Division of Behavioral Health Services, to provide behavioral health services.

The Support Coordinator coordinates all three service areas—Acute Medical, Long Term Care, Behavioral Health—to ensure a comprehensive approach to your health care needs.

Question: How do I find out about Division policy changes?

Answer: If you would like to be notified directly about our changes, please opt in by sending an email request with your contact information to DDDPolicy@azdes.gov.

Question: Where can I get a Member Handbook?

Answer: Go to www.azdes.gov/ddd/ to obtain a copy or call your Support Coordinator.

Getting on the Path to a Healthier You

Source: betobaccofree.gov

If you quit smoking right now...

- Within 20 minutes: Your heart rate and blood pressure drop.
- Within 12 hours: The carbon monoxide level in your blood drops to normal.
- Within 3 months: Your circulation and lung function improves.
- Within 9 months: You will cough less and breathe easier.
- After 1 year: Your risk of coronary heart disease is cut in half.
- After 5 years: Your risk of cancer of the mouth, throat, esophagus, and bladder are cut in half. Your risk of cervical cancer and stroke return to normal after 5 years.
- After 10 years: You are half as likely to die from lung cancer. Your risk of larynx or pancreatic cancer decreases.
- After 15 years: Your risk of coronary heart disease is the same as a non-smoker's.

Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council

The Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council (DDAC) is a special purpose advisory council on matters relating to developmental disabilities.

Meetings are open to the public. The next meeting is March 12, 2013. The DDAC will also be holding a public forum on February 21st in District East (Eastern Maricopa County). Please call the Office of Consumer and Family Support Services for details.

Office of Consumer and Family Support Services

The Office of Consumer and Family Support Services (OCFSS) was formed as a result of the Family Support Act of 1993. The OCFSS develops and promotes statewide activities and practices. They support individuals and their families as well as providers. OCFSS is available to help with issues related to the Division. It also helps with services, advocacy, and all other concerns. They are available if you have complaints about your health plan or the care you are receiving. OCFSS can be reached at:

602-542-6850

OR

1-866-229-5553

Outside Maricopa County

OR

DDWeb@azdes.gov