Title: Family Support Services Needs Assessment: A Comparison of Measures from Baseline (Q1 2013) to Time1 Follow-Up (Q2 2013)

Report Date: July 17, 2013

Time Period: January 1 to June 30, 2013

Data Source: Family Support Services (FSS) Assessment Application

Purpose: Track baseline measures (Q1 2013) for quarterly trend data of salient characteristics of youth and families seeking services who met eligibility for the New Jersey Department of Developmental Disabilities services.

Results:

- From January 1 to June 30, 2013 a total of N= 1,484 FSS applications for services were received.
- All completed applications were calculated as “high, moderate, and low need” through a computerized algorithm which calculates a Total Needs Score drawn from numeric assessment subscales for: (1) Youth Needs Status (2) Caregiver Status, (3) Family Functioning Status, (4) Household Financial Status and (5) Healthcare Enrollment.
- The FSS Needs Assessment Application analysis tools yielded the following distribution of the Total Needs scores among all applicants between January 1 and June 30, 2013.

![FSS Needs Assessment Scores January 1 thru June 30 2013](image)

1 PerformCare New Jersey is the administrator for the NJ Children’s System of Care
Change in FSS Applicant Needs Quarter 1 to Quarter 2, 2013

Overall, the functionality of the Total Needs Score is positive, showing expected variation from Baseline (Q1) to Interval Two (Q2 2013).

PerformCare saw a 1.5 percent climb in the number of applications calculated as a High Needs Score Applicant over the three month period. Quarter 2 saw a nine percent decrease in the number of applications received from Quarter 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FSA Needs Score Category</th>
<th>Q1</th>
<th>Q2</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
<td>22.3%</td>
<td>-0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>49.2%</td>
<td>48.5%</td>
<td>-0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>27.7%</td>
<td>29.2%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Applications N</td>
<td>777</td>
<td>707</td>
<td>-9.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Service Needs for All Youth with Disability

Comparing Service Needs, as reported by the primary caregiver during the application process from Baseline to Quarter 2, the information and thoroughness of the information recorded in the computerized application is consistently good across time.

The predominant need among all applicants is for assistance in providing essential tasks of daily living (69%), closely followed by Monitoring and Supervision assistance for their child in the home environment (60%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ranking of Priority of Needs by Caregiver (Applicant)</th>
<th>Q1</th>
<th>Q2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assistance for essential daily tasks - hygiene, eating, etc.</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring/Supervision</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behavioral Assistance/Intervention</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobility Challenges</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
High Needs Caregivers and Families

High Needs caretakers and their families are a critical concern for PerformCare. To date, the FSS computerized tool has yielded these surveillance metrics for Quarters 1 & 2:

- Nine out of ten (94%) of caregivers reported they need assistance in taking care of their child’s daily living needs such as bathing, toileting, dressing and eating.
- Nine out of ten (92%) of caregivers report that they have “limited” or “no assistance” available for support in the daily needs of care for their child.
- Youth cared for in the home has a chronic (47%) or life-threatening (16%) medical condition (63% combined).
- Nearly one-in-four (38%) of High Needs caregivers applying for FSS report that their own medical challenges adversely affect their ability or capacity to parent and care for their youth in the home.

Caregiving Strengths of Family Support Services Applicants – All Applicants Quarter 1 & 2

- The majority of applicants are age 64 or younger (98.5%).
- Fully 82 percent rate their physical status as “healthy” or have a condition of minor concern that would not negatively affect their ability to care for their child in the home.
- Nearly nine out of ten (87%) applicants indicated that they have no or few mental health challenges that would impact their parenting abilities.
- The majority (64%) of a caregiving FSS applicants report that they are currently enrolled in private healthcare plans.

Summary of Findings

To date, auditors find that the implementation of FSS Application tool is successful in the areas of (1) **Content Validity**: the application is successful in capturing “real world” status and needs of families who care for a youth(s) with developmental disability; and (2) **Test and Retest Reliability**: Auditors measured the consistency of individual and group data across Q1 and Q2 2013. The correlation coefficients were .93 and .95 respectively, denoting high agreement between and among staff administering the FSS tool across time.