



## Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

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Ted Strickland, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

July 24, 2008

**To:** County Board of MRDD Superintendents  
County Board of MRDD COG Directors  
County Board of MRDD Business Managers  
County Board of MRDD Waiver Contacts

**From:** Patrick Stephan, Deputy Director, Medicaid Development and Administration,  
ODMRDD

**Subject:** Sub. H.B. 405: Changes Affecting Individuals on Service Substitution Lists and Long-Term Service Planning Registries

On June 2, 2008, Gov. Strickland signed into law Substitute House Bill (HB) 405, making changes to the waiting list (WL) statute (R.C. 5126.042) which eliminates service substitution lists and long-term service planning registries. In addition, HB 405 adds language to the existing WL statute providing that individuals placed on a county board's service substitution list for waiver services before September 1, 2008 must use the service substitution date of request as their date of request for the waiver waiting list. The changes become effective on September 1, 2008.

### Individuals on service substitution list for waiver services

- 1) To comply with HB 405, a county board must transfer each individual on the board's service substitution list for waiver services to the board's waiting list for waiver services effective September 1, 2008. The individual's service substitution date of request is the date to be used when placing the person on the HCBS waiver waiting list. See R.C. 5126.042(B).
- 2) The board must be able to verify the accuracy of the service substitution request date used, and may use documentation provided by the county board or the family of the individual.

### Individuals on long-term service planning registry

- 1) Substitute House Bill 405 does not permit a county board to automatically transfer individuals from the registry to the board's waiting list for waiver services.
- 2) Instead of simply eliminating long-term service planning registries, however, we are directing county boards to contact individuals on the registry and give them the opportunity to request placement on waiver waiting list. For individuals who request waiting list placement, the board must comply with paragraph (L) (4) of the waiting list rule (O.A.C. 5123:2-1-08), which states:

When an individual on the long-term service planning registry requests to be placed on the waiting list, the county board shall reassess the individual and place the individual on the appropriate waiting list using the new request date.

County boards have the responsibility to inform individuals on their service substitution lists and long-term service planning registries of the actions that will be taken to implement the changes in the waiting list statute discussed in this memorandum.

ODMRDD sees this effort in regards to HB 405 as one part of a larger effort in making waiting lists more manageable. Ongoing communication with individuals who have expressed a desire for services is a critical element in better understanding the service needs of Ohio's citizens with developmental disabilities, and ODMRDD has plans to further enhance the waiting list process in order to better serve those with service needs.

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