



# POSSIBILITIES NOW!

*Improving the service system for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities through quality, person-centered, and family-focused supports that promote self-determination*

## Aloha!

This newsletter is for participants served by the Developmental Disabilities Division (DDD) and their family members. This newsletter and future issues will provide you with information about DDD's latest initiatives and activities.

Your voice is very important to us. In addition to our Participant and Family Newsletters, we will be visiting with families and communities in "town hall" meetings to listen to your concerns and share information about the DDD system.

## Highlights in this Issue

Topic	Quick Summary	More Info
<b>POSSIBILITIES NOW!</b>	This describes the way DDD will improve services and better support participants and their families.	Pages 1-2
<b>HCBS Final Rule and Person Centered Planning</b>	The Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) final rule requires states to provide services in settings that give people full access to all the benefits of living in the community. States must be in full compliance with the rule by March 2019.	Page 2
<b>Supports Intensity Scale (SIS)</b>	The SIS is being implemented so we can improve how we assess your support needs and develop better person centered plans. SIS assessments will be scheduled by cohorts and participants will have a SIS once every three years.	Pages 2-3
<b>HCBS I/DD Waiver Services</b>	DDD has submitted an application of a Waiver amendment to provide several new services such as Community Learning Services. If approved, the new services will be available starting July 1st.	Pages 3-4
<b>National Core Indicators Surveys (NCI)</b>	The National Core Indicators (NCI) survey is used by the DDD to improve the quality of the services provided to you. This is NOT the same as the SIS and is not used in service planning.	Page 4

## Possibilities Now!

[POSSIBILITIES NOW!](#) is the way DDD has been working to improve services and the way we support participants and their families. We believe that people with disabilities have a right to live and participate fully in the community throughout their lives, just like everyone. Supporting families is an important part of the work we believe in.

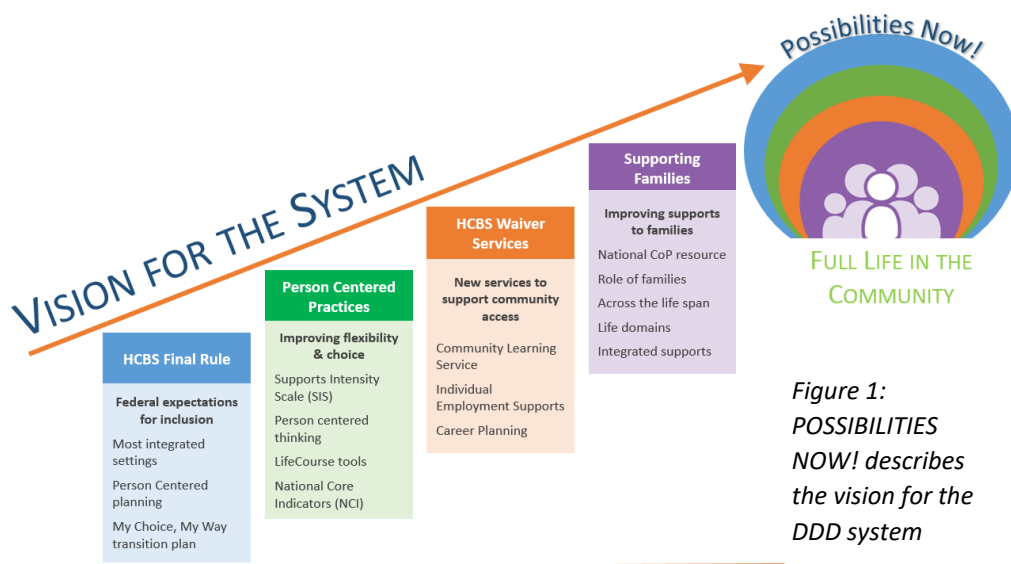


Figure 1: *POSSIBILITIES NOW!* describes the vision for the DDD system

*POSSIBILITIES NOW!*  
Continued from Page 1

There are a number of ways that we are improving our services. The purpose of this newsletter is to share some of the work we have been doing. Our promise is to communicate with you regularly and to listen to what you would like to share.

## HCBS Final Rule & Person-Centered Planning

The Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver is a Medicaid program. DDD receives funding to provide services for the HCBS Waiver program through Medicaid funding provided by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). In January 2014, CMS released a rule called the HCBS Community Integration Final Rule that we must follow. DDD has to be able to show CMS that we are following all parts of the rule by March 2019.

What does the HCBS Final Rule say?	What is the plan to bring Hawaii into compliance?	What is currently being worked on?
<p>All participants must have choices about where they live, work, and receive services in the community. This is a part of person-centered planning.</p> <p>All participants should be given choices about where they receive services based on their likes and needs.</p>	<p>Hawaii’s statewide plan to improve community integration (required by the HCBS Final Rule) is called <a href="#">“My Choice My Way”</a>.</p> <p>DDD’s vision of <i>POSSIBILITIES NOW!</i> provides us with a way to support all people with I/DD to live a good life in the community.</p>	<p>DDD is working with Med-QUEST and other state agencies to build training for our staff and providers.</p> <p>Our goal is to have all staff and agencies become more person-centered so they can truly support each participant to achieve their Possibilities Now!</p>

## Supports Intensity Scale® (SIS®)

The [Supports Intensity Scale® \(SIS®\)](#) is an assessment tool developed by the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) that measures the type and amount of support that a person with I/DD needs to be successful. DDD is using the SIS® so we can better understand what supports you need in order to be successful at home and in the community.

*Supports Intensity Scale*  
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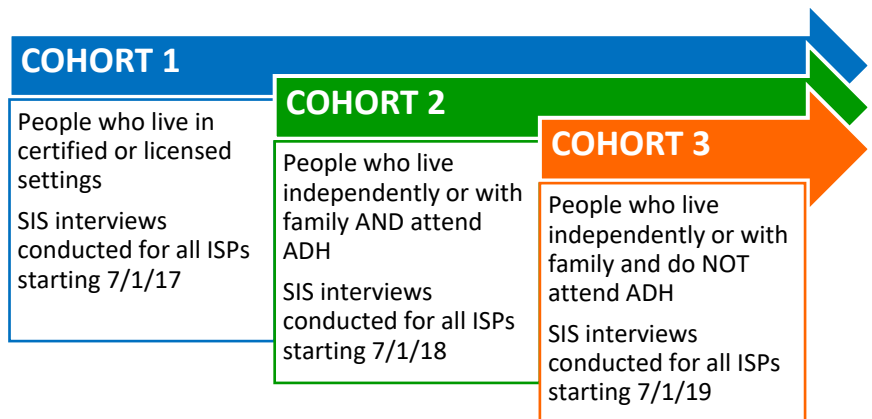
SIS® assessments are conducted by trained interviewers. They will talk with people who know you best. People who can attend the SIS® interview include: you, your family, direct support workers, friends, neighbors, or other community members who



know you well. This way the supports planning process involves people who know what you need to be successful in everyday life and what supports are needed to improve your quality of life. The SIS® will help your Circle of Support to understand what a richer, fuller life will look like, and help you to have a more accurate and effective ISP.

When certain questions on the SIS® indicate you have extraordinary medical or behavioral needs, SIS® interviewers will ask a standard set of supplemental questions to gather additional information about your needs.

The SIS® will be conducted every 3 years for every person 16 years and older receiving DDD services. In the first year, starting in July 2017, the first group of people to receive the SIS® will be people living in licensed or certified residential settings. The first group is called Cohort 1. In the second year, Cohort 2 will begin having SIS® information about their support needs used in their ISPs. Cohort 2 includes people who live at home and also receive Adult Day Health (ADH) services. The third group, Cohort 3, are people who live at home and do not attend ADH, but receive other services. Your SIS® interview will be scheduled a few months prior to your ISP according to the year of your cohort.



## New Home and Community Based Services Waiver

The purpose of the [Medicaid 1915 \(c\) I/DD Waiver](#) is to enable individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) who meet institutional level of care the choice to live in their homes and communities with appropriate quality supports. These supports are designed to promote health, community integration, safety and independence.

The Medicaid 1915(c) Waiver is renewed and approved by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid services every 5 years. A new waiver application was submitted to CMS last year and began on July 2016. CMS is currently reviewing our amendment to the application to add several new services (marked with \* in the chart).

If approved, this will be the available service array. The new services, if they are approved, will begin on July 2017.

Many of the new services were created to support compliance with the HCBS Final Rule which we mentioned earlier in this newsletter. For example, the changes made to the Employment Services

Waiver Services	
<i>*services that are pending CMS approval</i>	
Adult Day Health	
Additional Residential Supports*	
Assistive Technology	
Chore	
Community Learning Service – Individual*	
Community Learning Service – Group*	
Discovery and Career Planning & Benefits Planning	
Environmental Accessibility Adaptations	
Individual Employment Support – Job Development	
Individual Employment Support – Job Coaching	
Non-Medical Transportation	
Personal Assistance Habilitation	
Personal Emergency Response System	
Residential Habilitation	
Respite	
Skilled Nursing	
Specialized Equipment and Supplies	
Training and Consultation	
Vehicular Modifications	
Waiver Emergency Services	

New HCBS Waiver Services  
Continued from Page 3

which began in July 2016 were made to improve the supports available to participants to achieve their goals related to competitive work, independence, and community inclusion. Additionally, the new Community Learning Service (CLS) which was proposed with the Waiver Amendment allows participants to select services specifically designed to provide greater access to the community and increase community integration.

Additional information about the specific changes to the waiver services you are currently receiving will be coming soon.

## National Core Indicators™ (NCI)

[National Core Indicators \(NCI\)™](#) is what the DDD uses to measure and track our own performance. The core indicators are national standard measures that assess the outcomes of the services provided to individuals and families.

Hawaii participates in NCI in order to monitor the quality of our supports and services. We also use NCI and assess how satisfied our participants and families are with what we do and how we do it. NCI allows the DDD to address key areas of concern including employment, participant rights, service planning, community inclusion, choice, and health and safety. There are several different types of NCI surveys that we use to assess our performance. These are described in the table below.



The 2015-2016 Hawaii Adult Family Survey Final Report is available online!



### Face-to-face interviews

Conducted with individuals who are 18 years or older and receiving at least one service from DDD in addition to case management



### Mailed surveys

Mailed to family members or guardians who have a family member with I/DD who receives DDD services

You may be contacted by our contracted NCI team, Hilopa`a, to schedule an interview for the NCI Survey (**please note, this is NOT the same as the SIS**). For face-to-face interviews, background information (e.g. demographics, personal characteristics, health data, and employment status and wages) is collected from your from your case file beforehand.

The face-to face portion is conducted in person with the person receiving services. Section I can only be answered by the individual, NCI does not allow others to respond for the individual. Section II may be completed by someone else if the interviewer determines the individual receiving services cannot answer for him or herself.

## For additional information

Contact us:

[DOH.dddpossibilities@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:DOH.dddpossibilities@doh.hawaii.gov)

Visit us at:

<http://health.hawaii.gov/ddd/>

We hope you find this edition of the Possibilities Now! *Participant and Family Newsletter* helpful.

We will be sending out these newsletters on a regular basis to keep you updated about DDD services.

Please feel free to contact the DD Division or call your DDD Case Manager if you have questions or concerns.

MAHALO!!!

