

## **WHAT THE SUPPORTS INTENSITY SCALE© (SIS©) AND THE PA PLUS ARE AND AREN'T FOR THE MR SYSTEM IN PENNSYLVANIA**

### **WHAT ARE THE SIS© AND THE PA PLUS? WHAT ARE THE SIS© AND THE PA PLUS MEANT TO DO IN PA?**

- The SIS© is a needs assessment developed by the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD). The SIS© is a reliable and valid instrument used to measure support needs. The PA Plus is a set of questions added to the SIS© to provide additional planning information not covered in the SIS©.
- The SIS© and the PA Plus are used to evaluate the frequency, intensity and type of need for supports and services of a person with intellectual disabilities (mental retardation).
- The SIS© and the PA Plus help in determining the level of supports an individual needs. Other information, including the PUNS, must also be considered in determining the level of support defined in the Individual Support Plan (ISP).
- The SIS© and the PA Plus together are ONE source of information with which to start a planning process
- The SIS© and the PA Plus are designed as third party instruments; i.e. a SIS© interview is performed by a skilled interviewer with at least two respondents who know the person well
- At the aggregate level, the SIS© and the PA Plus can be used to look at differences between groups of people (e.g. differences in support needs between counties; differences in support needs by age group).
- The SIS© and the PA Plus must be administered by interviewers who are well-trained and experienced in utilizing this type of assessment

## **WHAT ARE THE SIS© AND THE PA PLUS NOT MEANT TO BE OR DO?**

- The SIS© and the PA Plus cannot diagnose mental retardation or eligibility for mental retardation services and supports.
- The SIS© and the PA Plus do NOT produce a budget amount; nor should it be used in a formula to produce a budget amount.
- The SIS© and the PA Plus will NOT be utilized as the SOLE basis for determining or reducing services and supports to an individual.
- The SIS© and the PA Plus is NOT a way to look at an individual's budget retrospectively to make changes.