



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE
P.O. BOX 2675
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17105-2675

KEVIN T. CASEY
Deputy Secretary
Office of Developmental Programs

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (717) 787-3700
FAX: (717) 787-6583

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Dear Colleague:

As you know, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) required that Pennsylvania adopt a standardized universal screening process for all Consolidated and Person/Family Directed Support (P/FDS) Waiver participants. After an extensive review of available assessments/tools, the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS)[®] was selected.

The SIS was developed by the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD), a leader in the field of mental retardation and the oldest organization in the world dealing with intellectual disabilities. The SIS is unlike other assessments in that it does not measure an individual's deficits, but rather, focuses on the supports needed for the individual to live an Every Day Life. It complements our Individual Support Plan (ISP) planning process as it addresses what is important to and for the individual.

The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) is committed to meeting the needs of individuals with intellectual disabilities consistently and equitably in all areas of the Commonwealth. To ensure that the administration of the SIS is conflict free, ODP contracted with Ascend Management Innovations to implement the assessments in Pennsylvania. Ascend has extensive national experience in the health care field and conducting statewide assessments, and we are fortunate to have them as our contractor.

While the SIS is currently being used in other states as a budgetary assessment tool, ODP pledges that the SIS will not be used in a formula to produce a budget amount in Pennsylvania. ODP also pledges that the SIS will not be the sole source for gathering information about the support needs of people with intellectual disabilities. It will be used in collaboration with all other sources of information gathered for each individual as part of the ISP planning process.

Thank you for your support, efforts, and dedication as we implement the SIS across Pennsylvania. It is our common goal to provide quality services to all individuals to ensure that they may lead an Every Day Life.

Sincerely,

Kevin T. Casey