

Informing Families

Building Trust

A Partnership for Better Communication
on Developmental Disabilities Issues

The new and improved **DDD Assessment** will begin on March 27, 2007!

The **DDD Assessment** will replace all other assessments currently being used by the DDD and will be used for all new and recurring assessments beginning March 27, 2007. After March 27, 2007 the **DDD Assessment** will be the only assessment used to determine the needs of all clients of the Division.

The **DDD Assessment** will be computerized thereby making the assessment process easier, fairer and more consistent.

The **DDD Assessment** is divided into three parts: the Support Assessment, the Service Level Assessment and the Individual Support Plan.

All clients of the Division, whether receiving a service or not, will receive the Support Assessment. This will give an accurate picture of the level of needs for Division clients. Clients who are receiving a paid service will receive all three parts of the **DDD Assessment** on an annual basis. Those who are not receiving a paid service will receive only the Support Assessment, which will not be administered again unless there is a change in need or the person requests a reassessment.

The new and improved **DDD Assessment** will be a major change and will require some getting used to. The advantages of the **DDD Assessment** are huge. For the first time in history, we will have an accurate and consistent method for determining the needs of people with developmental disabilities. Think of how important this is when we are asking the Governor and legislature for more money to serve more people! The **DDD Assessment** will also be consistently applied across the state, thereby limiting subjective judgments. Furthermore, the **DDD Assessment** is designed to match service resources with the assessed needs of the individual person.

Since this is a major change, the *Informing Families Building Trust* project has devoted this bulletin as well as two upcoming editions to the **DDD Assessment**. The next edition will focus on the assessment tool and will explain why it is important to answer all the questions accurately and completely. The third bulletin will focus on some concrete ways to prepare for the **DDD Assessment** once the DDD Case Resource Managers begin their visits.

We hope that this information will aid in preparing each of us for the new and improved **DDD Assessment** beginning March 27, 2007.

More information please visit: <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ddd/CAP.shtml>.