

Informing Families

Building Trust

A Partnership for Better Communication
on Developmental Disabilities Issues

New DDD Assessment Almost Here; Tips to be Prepared

In the last two Informing Families, Building Trust notices, we've shared information about the new DDD Assessment and what to expect. We now know case managers from the Division of Developmental Disabilities will begin using the new DDD Assessment June 1, 2007.

Overall, we believe this new assessment will be good for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The completed assessments will provide consistent information to the Division of Developmental Disabilities, the State of Washington and key stakeholders and ultimately help better serve people with developmental disabilities.

The Process

For those people already receiving DDD services, the new assessment will be given on the date of your annual service plan. For those people not currently receiving a paid DDD service, your case manager will call to schedule an assessment session. About 33,000 families will participate in the assessment process, so it could take awhile before you are contacted.

Each DDD Assessment session will last between two to four hours and should be conducted in your home. The assessment is very detailed and gathers extensive information to help determine you and your family's needs. If this session is too long for you to complete at one time you may request two separate sessions.

Tips to Prepare

During the session, a case manager will ask questions related to what type of support you or your family needs to be successful in different areas of life, such as cooking, shopping, learning, working or taking care of one's health. In addition, the answers will help determine the frequency of support needed. Take some time before your assessment to think carefully about your needs.

Before the actual assessment begins, make sure your case manager shares the "SIS Rating Key." This will help you accurately rate your answers. You may also reference this key throughout the session.

The Case Manager will use a computer to gather all information. It will be helpful to sit where you can look at the computer screen. This will allow you to clarify your answers if needed.

If you are not sure what a question means, ask the case manager for examples. There are no right or wrong answers. However, more complete answers will provide DDD with a better understanding of you and your family's support and service needs.

Remember, all information you provide is confidential.

A DDD Assessment DVD has additional information to help you prepare for your session. Email lindaw@cted.wa.gov for a free copy or order online at www.informingfamilies.org.