

# Information for Families About ID/DD Waiver Supervised Living



**DMH**  
Mississippi Department of Mental Health  
*Supporting a Better Tomorrow...One Person at a Time*

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[www.dmh.ms.gov](http://www.dmh.ms.gov)

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## What is the ID/DD Waiver?

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The Mississippi Department of Mental Health (DMH) is the operating agency for the ID/DD Home and Community Based Waiver Program, often referred to as the ID/DD Waiver. This program provides individualized supports and services to assist people who have an intellectual and/or developmental disability in living successfully at home and in the community. The ID/DD Waiver is funded through the Mississippi State Legislature (Medicaid Match portion appropriated to DMH) and federal Medicaid dollars.

Each person moving from one of the state's five Regional Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID) has a Transition Coordinator to manage the enrollment process.

The Transition Coordinator works with the person, the family, and their team to develop a Plan of Services and Supports that outlines individually-tailored outcomes, which are then molded into activities designed to assist people in having meaningful days doing what they choose to do.

The program uses the principles of Person-Centered Planning, which is a best practice approach to planning for persons requiring life-long services and supports. Person-Centered Thinking leads to outcomes that grant people full access to community, individual choice, charge over daily routines, and rights to privacy, dignity, and respect.

*"It has changed our lives. It has given her a quality of life, in a home environment."*

– Isabella's Parents



## Who does the quality assurance?

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- The person makes multiple pre-transition visits to allow them to get familiar with new staff and their settings.
- The Transition Coordinator makes a post-transition visit 30-45 days after the person has moved to follow-up.
- The Mississippi Department of Mental Health's Division of Certification is responsible for annual recertification visits to each supervised living location within the state.

## What about an emergency?

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- In the case of a medical emergency, the staff call 911. The person is accompanied by staff to the hospital. The person's family/guardian are notified of the emergency.
- In the event of a natural disaster, evacuation plans are in place.

### For more information, call:

North Mississippi Regional Center - Oxford	662-234-1476
South Mississippi Regional Center - Long Beach	228-868-2923
Boswell Regional Center - Magee	601-867-5000
Hudspeth Regional Center - Jackson	601-664-6000
Ellisville State School - Ellisville	601-477-9384

## Who handles medical care?

- Medical and mental health services are provided by doctors in the community.
- Support staff handles scheduling and transporting to appointments.
- Providers have nurses available.
- Medications are administered as prescribed.
- Physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, behavioral, and psychological supports are available.
- Medical/mental health services are paid by the person's insurance (private, Medicare, and/or Medicaid) according to the established guidelines.

## How do people spend their days?

- Day services are available Monday through Friday for those who are interested in participating.
- People have the option to focus on vocational skill development with the outcome of being employed and/or enjoy a day of meaningful opportunities.
- People have the opportunity to experience the community through restaurants, movies, shopping, church, and other places of their choice.
- People may choose to volunteer in their community.



## What is a Support Coordinator?

Each person enrolled in the ID/DD Waiver program has a Support Coordinator to coordinate and monitor all services a person receives, regardless of funding sources, to ensure services are adequate, appropriate, meet the person's requirements for support, and ensure the person's health and welfare are being protected.

The person's Support Coordinator will be responsible for revising/updating their Plan of Services and Supports at least annually. The Plan of Services and Supports can also be revised when a change in the person's circumstances occur or when requests are made by the person or his/her legal representative. The Support Coordinator informs each person/legal representative about certified providers for the services approved on the Plan of Services and Supports initially, annually, when a new provider is requested, and as new providers are certified in the person's area.

The Support Coordinator will make contact with each person/legal representative at least monthly by phone. Quarterly, a face-to-face visit will take place with the person at rotating service settings and in the home.



## What is Supervised Living?

Supervised Living is for people ages 18 and older and provides individually-tailored supports that assist a person to live in the community with the greatest degree of independence possible.

There must be staff in the dwelling 24 hours per day/seven days per week who can respond to calls for assistance immediately.

Transition Assistance is available for people who transition from an institution to a less restrictive community living arrangement where they receive Supervised Living services. The max amount of assistance is \$800. The money can be used to purchase essential furnishing, security deposits, and other moving expenses.



## Did You Know?

Three decades of deinstitutionalization studies have found that people who move from institutions to smaller community settings are happier, healthier, have more control over their lives, and are better able to function independently after the move (Larson, Lakin, & Hill, 2013).

In the state of Mississippi, more than 525 people have transitioned from intermediate care facilities for IDD into the community since January 2012.

## Who are Support Staff?

- Support staff are hired by providers that are certified through the Department of Mental Health.
- They must go through a background check and fingerprinting.
- They are trained in CPR/First Aid, Emergency/Disaster Response, and Principles and Procedures of Positive Behavior Support.
- There are typically no more than four people to a home.
- Support staff are determined based on the support levels of the people living in the home.
- The person's personality and interests are considered when matching people with support staff.
- Support is provided for all activities of daily living, meal preparation, cleaning, finances, shopping, and other individual pursuits.
- Access to community activities is available when and where people receiving services choose.
- They must have access to the community to the same degree as others in the community.
- Transportation to and from day programs and community activities is provided.

*"I'm not looking back... people will help you if you need something."*

– Kenny

