

An Introduction to the Supports Intensity Scale – Adult Version™

Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living
Developmental Disabilities Services Division

June 2021

Agenda

Changes to Process for Assessing	3-7
Who We Are	8-11
Supports Intensity Scale – Adult Version™	12-22
Assessment Process	23-29
How to Use Assessment Information	30-31
Questions & Discussion	32-34



Changes to Process for Assessing Individual Needs for Developmental Disabilities Home and Community-Based Services

Clare McFadden, DAIL Deputy Director of Payment Reform

How do changes fit into DDS Payment Reform project?

- DDS payment reform started in Jan. 2018, paused during pandemic, restarted on fall 2020
- Goals of project:
 - Transparent: easily described and understood
 - Effective: payment model supports people getting appropriate services to meet needs
 - Equitable: resources made available in similar way across the state
 - Accountable: State can identify what services were delivered to people and relate that to payment for services
 - Sustainable: Pay providers reasonable rates for delivering services

Assessment of Need

How are people's needs assessed?

Resource Allocation

How do assessed needs translate into funding?

Payment Model

How does state pay for services?

Service Planning and Delivery

How is service plan developed, implemented and monitored?

Accountability

How does state track what was provided and ensure people's needs are met? (encounter data)

What is changing? Why?

- Use of a standardized assessment tool, Supports Intensity Scale-Adult
 - Current tool is “home grown”. Not standardized, does not lend itself to objective, consistent way of measuring what people need, does not have a consistent way of translating information gathered into individual plan
 - Goal is to have people with similar needs across the state have access to similar resources
- Public Consulting Group contracted to conduct assessments
 - Having one provider conducting assessments statewide using a standard process will improve consistency

Plan for rolling out the new process

- Training of new assessors – May-June 2021 (requesting volunteers to participate)
- Start new process 7/1/21
- Results from first 500-700 assessments will be used by State to help design new payment model
- Teams can use info to assist in person-centered planning
- No change to people's individual plans or budget at least until 2023
- Providers will continue same assessment and planning process until then (some people may have 2 assessments in a year)

Who We Are

Introductions



Brittani Trujillo
Program and Quality Manager



Lori Williams
Quality Lead



Jon Riley, PMP
Project Manager

Assessor Spotlights



Sandra McIntyre

- Based in Rutland County
- 36 years of human services experience
- Meets all requirements of AAIDD as well as requirements to be a QIDP
- Interests: family time, beach trips, reading



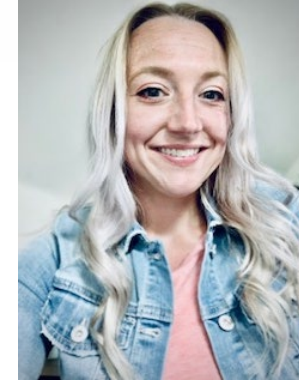
Samantha Martin

- Based in Burlington/Winooski
- Licensed Social Worker (LSW) with 8 years case management experience as well as State policy experience.
- Interests: hiking, snowboarding, cooking new recipes



Danielle Sachs

- Based in Franklin County
- 20 years of human services experience with the last 10 working with youth with developmental disabilities.
- Interests: farming, hiking, family time



Katherine Higgins

- Based in Washington County
- Over 10 years of human services experience, starting with volunteer work while in grade school
- Interests: gardening, hiking, kayaking

Overview of Public Consulting Group

- Founded in 1986, PCG is headquartered in Boston, MA and employs more than 2,500 professionals in 60 offices
- Management consulting to assist public sector agencies better serve their targeted populations
- Five Practice Areas
 - Human Services
 - Health
 - Education
 - Technology Consulting
 - Public Partnerships, LLC (PPL)

PUBLIC CONSULTING GROUP | CURRENT CONTRACTS



Supports Intensity Scale – Adult Version™



What is the Supports Intensity Scale-Adult Version (SIS-A™) Assessment?

The SIS-A™ is a standardized assessment that measures the pattern and intensity of supports an adult (16 years and older) with intellectual and developmental disabilities requires to be successful in community settings.

Who Created the SIS®?

- Created by the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) between 1998 to 2003 because of changes in how people viewed and related to people with disabilities
- The SIS® was released in 2004
- The SIS® helps:
 - Foster positive hopes
 - Focus on appropriate activities that improve a person's life
 - Create a person-centered service plan



Why Was the SIS® Created?

To support the rights of people with disabilities to:

- Experience the same rights and responsibilities
- Explore dreams and expectations
- Learn about and have the same opportunities like other adults in their community
- Be part of a larger community rather than separate

Why was the SIS-A™ chosen?

- **Strength Based**
 - Focuses on what support a person needs, not what the person can't do
 - Not an adaptive behavioral scale
 - Reliable and valid – the SIS® gets the information it was created to get
- Consistent with the values of community inclusion, self-direction, individual choice/control, and person-centered services



What Does the SIS-A™ Assess?

- **Section 1A Exceptional Medical and Section 1B Behavioral Support Needs:** Assesses and documents extra support needed related to medical and behavioral conditions. There are 18 questions for exceptional medical support needs and 12 for exceptional behavioral support needs.
- **Section 1A Exceptional Medical Support Example Question:**
 - Dressing of open wounds – Needs assistance with the cleaning and dressing of open sores
 - No support, some support, extensive support
- **Section 1B Behavioral Support Example Question:**
 - Prevention of stealing – Steals/takes other people’s property, shoplifts, and so on either deliberately or otherwise)
 - No support, some support, extensive support

What Does the SIS-A™ Assess?

Section 2 Support Needs Index:
Assesses and documents support needs for 57 life activities using three measures:

- Type – what kind of support is needed
- Frequency – how often the support is needed
- Amount – how much time is needed to provide support

The Support Needs Index contains six subsections:

- Home Living Activities
- Community Living Activities
- Lifelong Learning Activities
- Employment Activities
- Health and Safety
- Social Activities

- **Home Living Activities – Eating Food:** Focus is on supports associated with safely ingesting foods and beverages for nourishment in all environments throughout the day.
 - Primary Considerations:
 - Placing food into mouth, chewing, and swallowing it
 - Secondary Considerations:
 - Assisting with or teaching of utensils (including adapted utensils) based on culture (e.g., including knives, forks, spoons, chopsticks)
 - Not Included:
 - Table manners

What Does the SIS-A™ Assess?

Section 3 Supplemental Protection and Advocacy Scale: Assesses various activities an individual performs to protect and advocate for themselves, using three measures:

- **Type** – what kind of support is needed
- **Frequency** – how often is the support needed
- **Time** – how much time is needed to provide support

Obtaining legal services: Focus of this item is on supports to contact an attorney for legal services.

- Primary Considerations:
 - Identifying when legal assistance is needed; attending and participating in initial visits with attorney to explain issues and concerns
- Secondary Considerations:
 - Accessing/using legal assistance (e.g., Legal Aid, parole officer)



Supplemental Questions

- **For any item in Section 1A, Extensive Medical or 1B Behavioral Support Needs with a score of 2:**
 - What kind of support should be provided to meet this need
 - How frequently is support needed
 - On a typical day when support is needed, how much time should be devoted
 - During what time of day is support needed
 - Additional information
- **Parenting**
 - Currently/expecting
 - 18 years or younger living in the home
 - Parenting services by DCF
 - What supports would be helpful
- **Sleep**
 - What kind of support should be provided to meet this need
 - How frequently is support needed
 - On a typical night when support is needed, how much time should be devoted
 - Additional information



Who Administers the SIS-A™ ?

- **Qualified Intellectual Disability Professional**
 - Minimum 1 year working with people with IDD
- **Recognized SIS assessor**
 - AAIDD developed classroom training
 - Practice assessments
 - Successful completion of Interviewer Reliability and Quality Review
 - Observed by a recognized SIS trainer

Who Should Attend the SIS-A™?

- People who have known the individual for at least 3 months
- People who can describe the day-to-day support the individual needs
- People who can be a respondent include:
 - Individual
 - Family
 - Guardian
 - Direct support staff
 - Case managers
 - Teachers
 - Supervisors

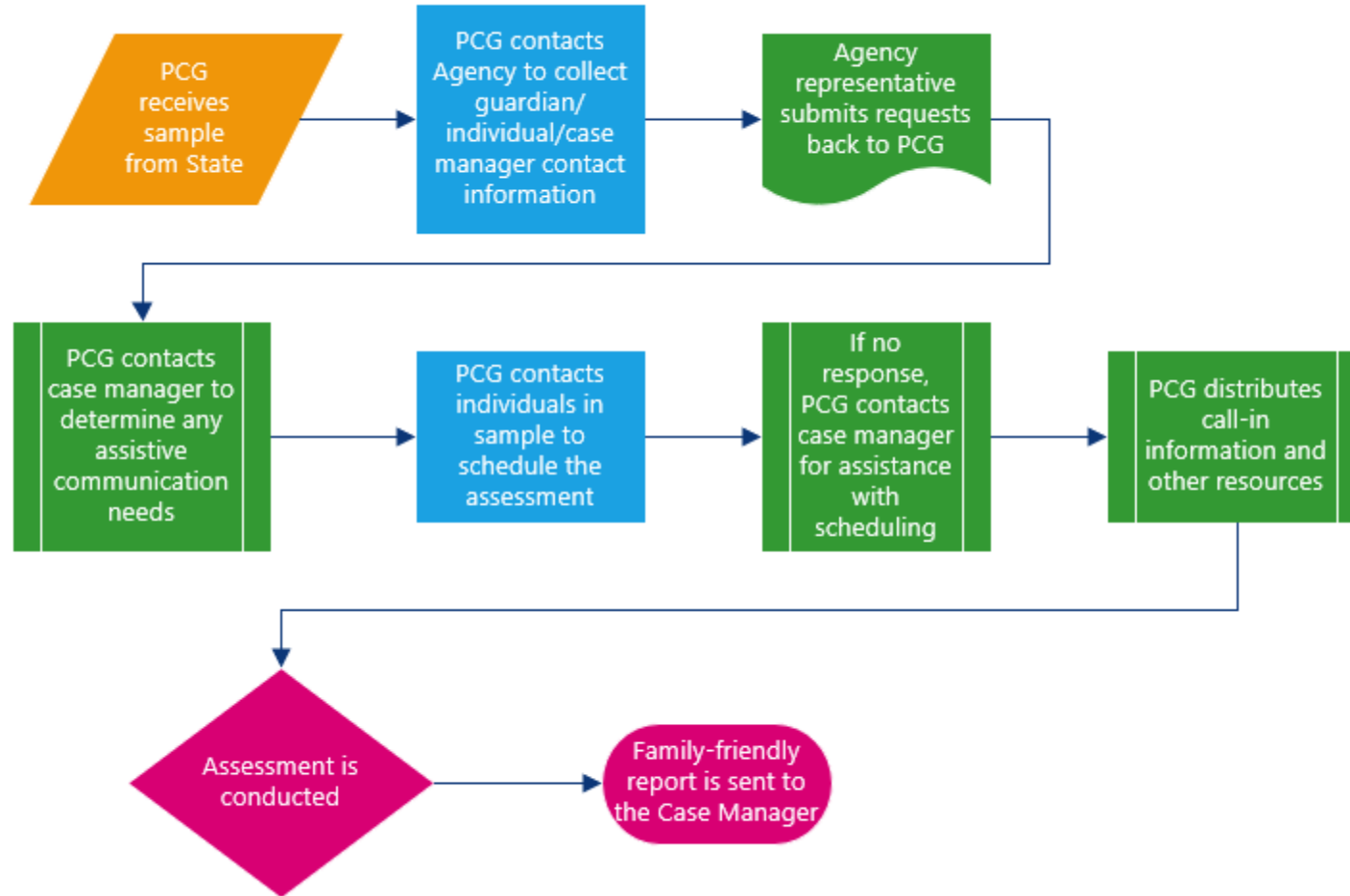
Assessment Process

How Will Assessments Get Scheduled?

- Initial Sample:
 - PCG received list from DAIL (500-700 individuals)
 - Throughout VT
 - Various settings/living arrangements
 - Working with DAIL and agencies to obtain necessary information about each individual
 - Overall referral process is in the works once sample complete
- Scheduling team will contact the individual/family/guardian to schedule the assessment at a time convenient to the individual/family/guardian
 - Will leave message if no one answers
 - PCG number is 1-833-930-3543 to return a message
- Respondent team will receive a confirmation e-mail of the assessment date and time



How Will Assessments Get Scheduled?



What Happens at the Assessment?

- Assessments will occur virtually using Microsoft Teams
- All respondents will login to Microsoft Teams for the assessment
- Assessors will introduce the SIS-A™ assessment
 - Process
 - Purpose
 - SIS Booklet
 - Guide to Rating
- Assessors will conduct the assessment
 - Introduce each section
 - Let respondents know which item is being scored, the focus of the item, and primary considerations of the item
- Assessments take approximately 2 hours

What Happens After the Assessment?

- The SIS Assessor will enter all scoring and related information into SISOnline (electronic database)
- The SIS Assessor will email a copy of the SIS-A™ to the individual's case manager
 - The Case Manager will provide a copy of the assessment to the individual, family, and/or guardian if requested

What is the role of the Case Manager?

- To collaborate with PCG to provide individual/family/guardian contact information and other information necessary to schedule the assessment
- To send a referral to PCG when an individual needs to be assessed (process to be determined later)
- To provide copy of the SIS-A™ to individual/family/guardian
- To use the information gained from the SIS-A™ to assist in development of a person-centered service plan
- To participate in assessment if asked by individual/family/guardian

What is the role of Other Provider Staff?

- To participate in assessment if asked by individual/family/guardian
- To coordinate and collaborate with case manager and PCG in scheduling the SIS-A™ when needed
- To use the information gained from the SIS-A™ to inform person-centered service delivery

How to Use the Assessment Information

Service Plan Development

- Federal Requirements:
 - Reflect individual's strengths and preferences
 - Reflect individual's clinical and support needs as identified through an assessment
 - Include goals and desired outcomes
- SIS-A™ Information:
 - Important To and Important For
 - Support needs
 - Activity (e.g., eating, employment)
 - Type (e.g., prompting, complete assist)
 - Frequency (e.g., monthly, weekly, daily)
 - Amount (e.g., 2 hours/month, 1 hour/day)



Questions and Discussion

Questions and Discussion



Contact Information

For any questions or concerns, please
send an email to:

AHS.DAIL-SISAInfo@vermont.gov





PUBLIC[™]
CONSULTING GROUP

Solutions that Matter