


**Support Intensity Scale:
What you need to know**



**Iowa
Association of
Community
Providers**

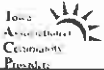
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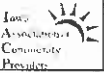
**Support Intensity Scale:
What is it?**

- Standardized Assessment
- Core Standardized Assessment Definition:
A core standardized assessment is a tool for gathering information from the individuals in the same service population by asking a standard set of questions about basic functional skills and abilities.



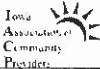
Once the information has been gathered, it can be used to:

- Determine each person's eligibility for long-term supports and services
- Identify the individual support and service needs of each person
- Assist in developing the person's individual service plan
- Guide the allocation of resources in a way that is equitable and consistent with the identified needs of the individual




Wait!
You said resource allocation.
That sounds scary.
What does it mean?

- What we all probably agree on is major parts of how services are funded right now are broken.
- We don't know yet what that might look like in Iowa.
- In other states....



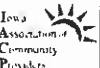
What do we know about how other states are using the SIS?

- Since 2004, at least thirty-three (33) other states have used the SIS tool, and eight (8) have used SIS in combination with resource allocation to reform service delivery.



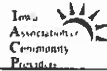
How will it be used in Iowa?

- ID Waiver Population
- Will take three years to assess all folks receiving ID Waiver and ICF/ID Services, 1/3 of persons served each year.
- Replaces Case Management Assessment



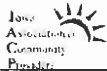
When does this all start?

- It already has. August 1, 2014 was the start date.



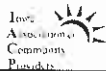
I hate change. Why is this happening?

- The Mental Health and Disability Redesign Workgroup recommended implementing standard assessment instruments. The 2013 Health and Human Services appropriations bill (Senate File 446) directed DHS to contract with an independent entity to perform the SIS .
- In addition, core standardized assessments are also an essential element of the Balancing Incentive Program, which is providing additional federal funding to Iowa.



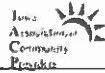
Tell me about the process.

- SIS assessors will work with the case manager and the person served to schedule time for the assessor to come.
- Assessor may also meet with other respondents including family, friends and staff.



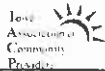
Process, cont....

- Conducted for each person every three years.
- Can be done more frequently as a person's needs change.



How can someone who has never met the person come in and assess them?

- SIS assessors go through a rigorous training process. The process is tightly controlled by the company that developed the SIS.
- They won't just be relying on their own observations. The assessment process may involve multiple people who know the person served.



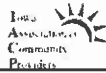
Will individuals lose services they are receiving now?

FAQ says: If the assessment indicates that an individual is receiving a higher level of services and supports than that person needs to function successfully, there could be recommendations for reductions in services. Likewise, if the assessment shows that a person needs more intensive services and supports than he or she is receiving, there would be a recommendation for a service plan with an increased level of support. No one should lose services needed to live successfully.



Will providers be able to access the assessment results?

- Yes. They will be available from the case manager.



What if the assessment gets it totally wrong?

- Medical Services uses the assessment to determine level of care. If there is a question regarding the LOC determined, the team would speak with Medical Services.

Benefits of Standardized Assessment

- Gives reliable means of comparison (needs vs funding, for example)
- Valid measure of support needs
- Can inform funding decisions

