

# In-Home Supportive Services Assessment and Authorization



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# IHSS Social Worker Training



- Training provided by County Social Services
- Fundamental Training provided by IHSS Training Academy
  - IHSS 101
  - Assessment and Authorization
  - Special Areas in IHSS
  - Program Integrity/ State Hearing
  - IHSS and Children
  - Medical Implications

# IHSS Process Flow



- 1) Receive Request for IHSS from applicant
- 2) Request is screened by SW/ Eligibility Screener
- 3) Initial Assessment at client's home  
(or hospital, SNF, Rehab Center)
- 4) Annual Reassessment to determine continuing need for IHSS

# IHSS Assessment Tools - continued



- **Annotated Assessment Criteria**
  - Criteria (includes general questions and observations during visit) to assist SW in determining the applicant/client's functional abilities/ limitations

# IHSS Assessment Tools



- **FUNCTIONAL INDEX SCALE (MPP-30-756)**
  - 1) Independent
  - 2) Verbal Assistance
  - 3) Some Human Help Needed
  - 4) Lots of Human Help Needed
  - 5) Cannot Perform

\*cited from IHSS 101 training manual

# IHSS Assessment Tools - continued



- *Functional Index Scales Include:*

- Housework
- Meal Prep and Cleanup
- Routine Laundry
- Food Shopping and Errands
- Bowel, Bladder, and Menstrual Care
- Respiration
- Feeding
- Ambulation
- Transfers
- Bathing, Oral Hygiene, Grooming, and

Routine Bed Baths

- Bowel, Bladder, and Menstrual Care
- Dressing/ Prosthetic Devices
- Memory
- Orientation
- Judgment

# IHSS Assessment Tools - continued



- **Hourly Task Guidelines**

- General Guideline created for “time per task”
- Corresponds with Functional Ranking (1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
- Created to establish uniformity in assessment with regards to “time per task”

Ex.

<b>Bathing, Oral Hygiene, and Grooming</b>	LOW ( <i>hrs/week</i> )	HIGH ( <i>hrs/week</i> )
Rank 2	0.50	1.92
Rank 3	1.27	3.15
Rank 4	2.35	4.08
Rank 5	3.00	5.10

# Special Services



- **Protective Supervision**

- To safeguard against accident or hazard by observing and/ or monitoring the behavior of non self-directing, confused, mentally impaired or mentally ill persons
- (ex. Developmental Delay, Dementia)



# Special Services - continued



- **Paramedical Services**

- services that require authorization and training by a medical professional before they can be provided.
  - ✦ Wound Care
  - ✦ Injections
  - ✦ Tube Feeding
  - ✦ Suctioning
  - ✦ Etc.

# Other Home-Visit Items



- **SOC873 – Health Care Certification Form**
  - Form completed by applicant/ recipient’s Licensed Health Care Practitioner which states applicant’s abilities/ limitations and certifies need for IHSS. (REQUIRED FORM)

# Additional Assessment Domains



- Medical Diagnoses
- Medications taken
- Alternative Resources
  - Regional Center
  - Adult Day Care
  - MSSP
  - Home Health
  - Meals on Wheels
  - Paratransit Services
  - Meal Allowance

# Additional Assessment Domains – cont.



- Availability or Need for Durable Medical Equipment and other Assistive Devices
- Living Situation
- Household Composition
- Support System



- In short...

**TONS OF INFORMATION NEEDED AND COLLECTED IN ORDER  
TO ESTABLISH SERVICE PLAN AND AUTHORIZATION OF IHSS!**

# Advantages of Current Assessment



- Creates uniformity in assessment, especially in the event when a case is passed from one worker to another
- Not a Dx-driven program
- Gives SW autonomy to focus on relevant information

# Missing Components/ Areas in Need of Improvement



- Easier to assess clients that have mostly physical limitations vs. clients with mental health dx
  - No clear tool to assess mental health needs or issues of Dementia
- Lack of ongoing monitoring/ service planning
  - (Reassessment is done 1x/ year or when there is a change in condition)
- Lack of Multi-Disciplinary Teams to convene and determine other needs and provide time for information sharing

## Missing Components/ Areas in Need of Improvement – cont.



- Insufficient medical information
- Health Care Certification (SOC873) provides little information to assist SW with needs determination
- Information on client's participation in other community services is limited to services that may impact the IHSS hours. (Needed: Wraparound Services, etc.)
- Minimal collaboration with other services in place to maintain client's independence to live at home safely



# Missing Components/ Areas in Need of Improvement – cont.



- No uniform BioPsychoSocial Assessment questions
- No risk assessment scale for risk of institutionalization
- No link to a data system that will allow for reporting on specific fields or risks
- Multiple docs used to assess special services
  - (i.e. Paramedical Services Needs Assessment)