



# **South Carolina DDSN Services, Waiting Lists and Medicaid Funding**

**An Overview of “How The System Really Works” in South  
Carolina – and How Osprey Village Is Working to Improve It**

Osprey Village Community Input Forum

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# How Does the System Work?



- Getting approved to have the appropriate services needed by someone with an Intellectual or Developmental Disability (IDD) both paid for and provided can be a complex process!
- For adults with IDD, the transition from school to adult life can be especially difficult – a lot of the “heavy lifting” has to be done by their parents or guardian.
- This presentation will hopefully explain how the services system works (or doesn’t work) in South Carolina and many of the steps you need to take to obtain the needed services.
- We’ll also update you on our plans for Osprey Village as a “neighborhood with a purpose” implementing a “consumer-controlled” model for providing services.

# Basic First Steps



## 1) Do you qualify for Supplemental Security Income (SSI)?

If you have a permanent disability that began before age 21, you “should” qualify. Meet with your local Social Security office to get the details and apply as soon as you have a professional diagnosis of a disability – it’s not automatic!

## 2) Are you a resident of South Carolina?

If not, any Medicaid funding or service that you might have had in another state does NOT transfer to South Carolina. You have to apply for Medicaid and be approved for a funding slot all over again once you have established residency here. (NOTE: SSI payments DO transfer from another state, but you do have to register here.)

## 3) What about waiting lists for Medicaid funding?

Yes, it is likely that even once you have been approved as eligible for Medicaid services, you will likely have to wait to be assigned a “funding slot” to pay for services like day programs, transportation, job training, respite, etc. – it can take several years!

# Some Definitions: DDSN, CMS, DHHS and Medicaid Waivers



- The SC Dept. of Disabilities & Special Needs (DDSN) is a state social services agency.
- Medicaid is a Federal health insurance program for lower income individuals administered by the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS).
- In SC, Medicaid programs are administered by the SC Dept. of Health & Human Services (DHHS).
- Medicaid “waivers” are a funding source for services in SC administered by DDSN and DHHS via a state / Federal match (about 30% state / 70% Federal funding).
- Disabilities and Special Needs (DSN) Boards are setup in each county to ensure that needed services are being provided for people with developmental disabilities who live there.

# Medicaid Waivers and Funding



## How Medicaid “Waivers” Work:

- According to federal law, persons with intellectual & developmental disabilities may “waive” their rights to live in state-run residential or medical facilities in order to live in their own communities and receive care and services there.
- Funding that would normally go to the states for “institutional” care should instead provide care to the disabled person near where they live - at a much lower overall cost to the taxpayer.
- CMS defines the types of services that will be paid for through Medicaid waiver funding on a state/federal matching funds basis.
- Medicaid Waivers and their associated funds are assigned by DDSN to the individuals who have submitted proof of a permanent intellectual or developmental disability – the “Consumer” – NOT to a service provider or agency!

# DDSN & Medicaid Waiver Facts



- A “Consumer” must be approved as eligible for services in SC by DDSN, which works via local DSN Boards as well as a number of independent Service Providers (like Osprey Village).
- You must be eligible for Medicaid (meet income/asset limits) to receive a Medicaid-funded waiver (as well as medical benefits).
- There are 4 different Medicaid waivers that fund services administered by DDSN:
  - ID/RD: Intellectual Disabilities/Related Disabilities
  - CS: Community Supports Waiver
  - HASCI: Head and Spinal Cord Injury Waiver
  - PDD: Pervasive Developmental Disorder (Autism Spectrum) Waiver – for children only

# ID/RD (Intellectual Disabilities/ Related Disabilities) Waiver



- For individuals with greater medical care and support needs:
  - Examples:
    - Nursing Care
    - Extensive Respite
    - Medical Equipment & Supplies
    - Residential Services
    - Personal Care Attendants
    - Day Program Services
    - Vocational Training or Employment Supports

# Community Supports Waiver - CS

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- For individuals living in the community with lesser needs:
  - Typical services needed:
    - Day Program Services
    - Some limited respite care



# Head & Spinal Cord Injury - HASCI

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- Must have a head and/or spinal cord injury
  - Funds services specific to this disability
  - Can include any of the services in the ID/RD and CS waivers, as needed

# Pervasive Developmental Disorder Waiver - PDD

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- For children between age 3 and 10 only for a maximum of 3 years
  - Provides ABA - Applied Behavior Analysis therapy

# DDSN Medicaid Waivers Waiting Lists



**START:** Individual/family contacts the USC Center for Disability Resources: **(800) 289-7012**. They get a recorded message, leave contact information, & wait for call back from intake intern.

Intern does telephone screening, refers consumer to DDSN District staff for in-person interview; if qualified, gets referred to a local Service Coordinator.

Local Service Coordinator meets with the Consumer, their family & others to determine the Consumer's needs. The individual is assigned to a waiting list.

ID/RD Waiver waiting list

CS Waiver waiting list

HASCI Waiver waiting list

Waiver funding slots are awarded as funds become available based on need and/or where consumer is on waiting list

**Prior to 2004: Waiting lists for ID/RD Waiver slots were short; but as of June 30, 2014:**

Total number on statewide ID/RD waiver waiting list = 5054+ • Total in Beaufort County = 128

Total number on statewide CS waiver waiting list = 4058+ • Total in Beaufort County = 105

*NOTE: Some Consumers could be on both waiting lists at the same time*

# DDSN Residential Services

## Waiting List – A Separate List!



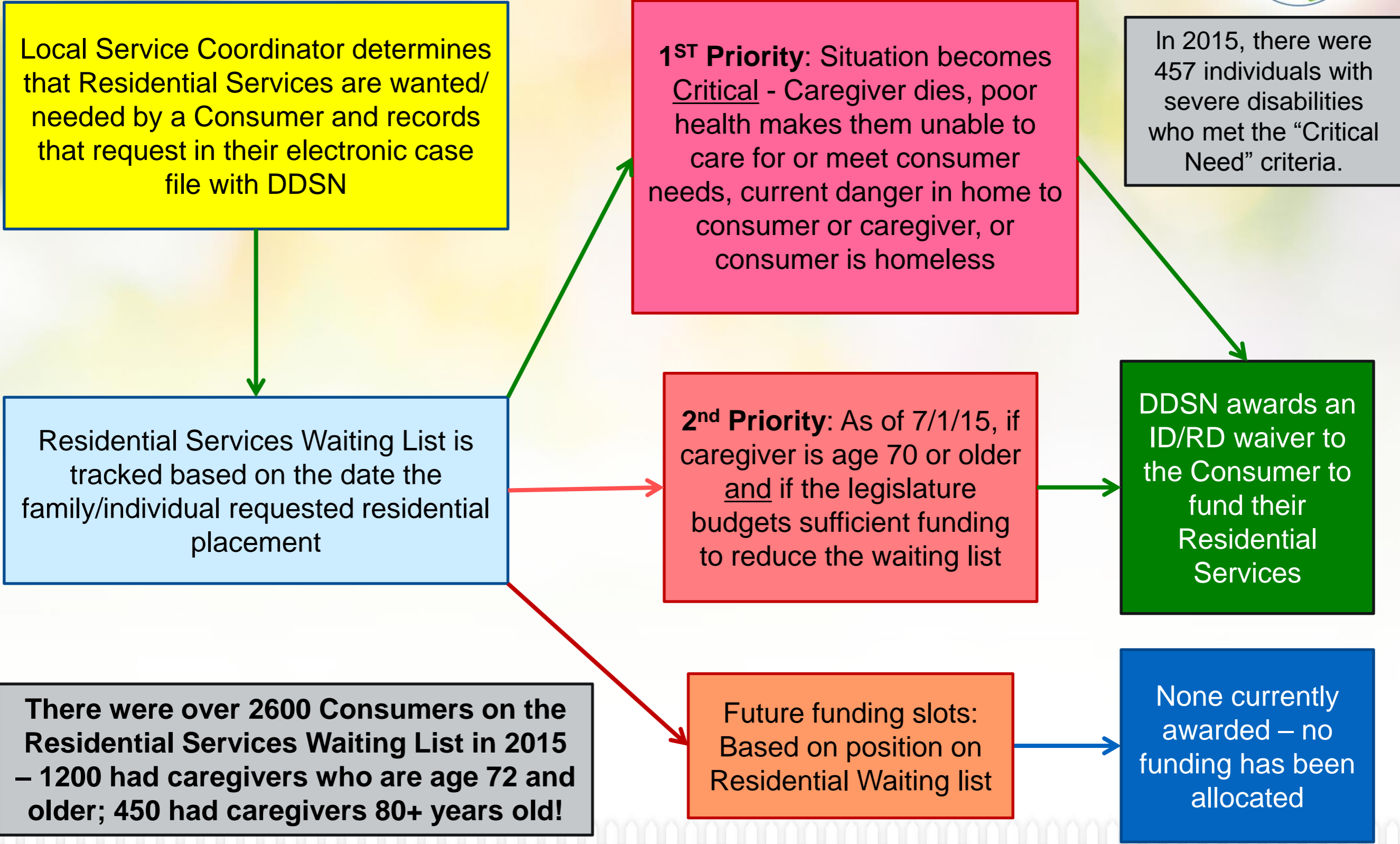
- Everyone who is eligible for services through DDSN can be on the residential waiting list while they are also on other waiting lists or are receiving services via other Medicaid waivers (ID/RD, CS or HASCI).
- The Consumer must want residential services, meet the level of care required for residential services, and request residential services.
- This statewide residential waiting list is tracked by DDSN by the date of request for these services.
- However, residential services funding slots are currently awarded based on the level of need, not “first come, first served.”

# DDSN Residential Services Priorities



- 1<sup>st</sup> Priority – Consumers with a **Critical Need** for Placement by DDSN
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Priority - Consumers living with a **caregiver age 70 and older**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Priority - Consumers who want & qualify for residential services now (*not currently funded*)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Priority - Those who may need residential services in the future (*not currently funded*)

# DDSN Residential Services Waiting List Prioritization



# Residential Critical Need Placement List



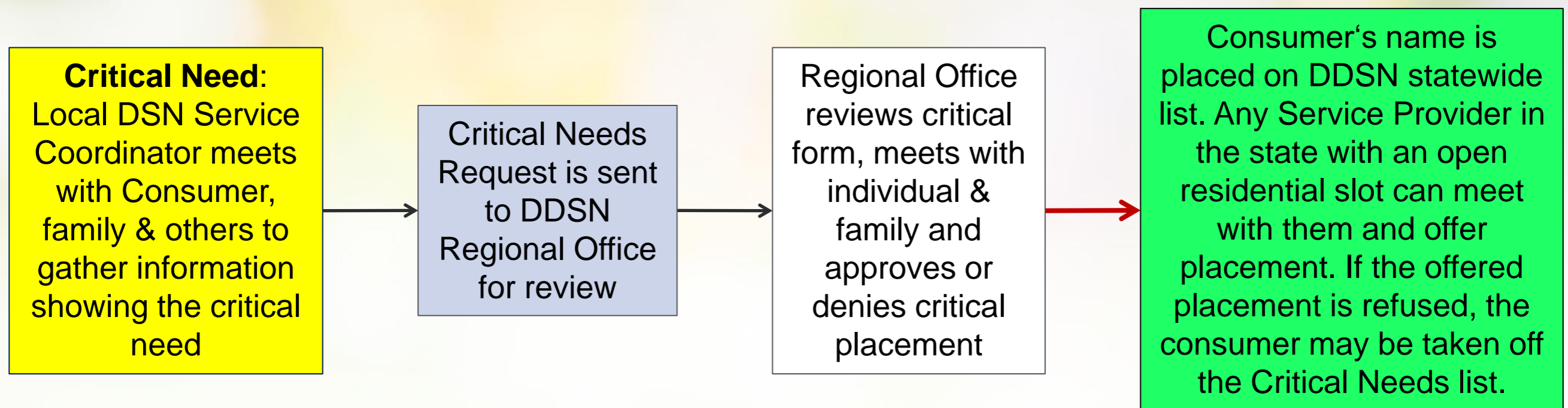
- At any time throughout the year, a Consumer may become in immediate need of residential placement:
  - Homeless or unsafe housing
  - Caregiver dies or becomes ill and unable to meet their needs
  - Individual health and safety needs not met in current situation
  - Individual is a threat to others in household
- These Consumers are offered a placement wherever there is a residential vacancy in SC – which could be anywhere in the state
- They immediately get an ID/RD waiver to fund their residential services – or DDSN pays for these services if waiver matching funds are unavailable or they don't qualify for Medicaid due to income or assets over the limits.

# Residential Services Critical Need List



## DDSN Residential Services Critical Need Placement Process

*A Consumer assigned a residential placement also receives an ID/RD Waiver to pay for those services – assuming that they also meet the Medicaid income/asset limits.*



### Residential Services Waiting List as of June 30, 2015 – Beaufort County Residents:

- Number of Beaufort County Consumers awaiting Residential Services = 54
  - Number of those Consumers with caregivers age 72 and older = 30
    - Longest waiting Beaufort County resident = 257 months



# Additional Residential Funding Has Been Budgeted for Those with Aging Caregivers



- The Governor has recently allocated funds in the DDSN budget to reduce residential waiting lists. Over the past two years, this additional funding has been targeted toward providing residential services to individuals with caregivers age 70 and older.
  - 100 new residential funding slots were budgeted for this purpose in the 2014-2015 DDSN budget; 125 new funding slots were budgeted for 2015-2016 along with 1,000 new “general services” funding slots.
  - 125 additional funding slots are budgeted for this purpose in the 2016-2017 fiscal year along with 1,800 new “general services” waiver funding slots.

# CMS and the “Final Rule”



- The SC Medicaid Waivers program was up for renewal and had to be submitted for approval by CMS in 2015.
- CMS released a “Final Rule” in 2014 that defined what would or would not be considered to be an appropriate “Home & Community-Base Setting” (HCBS) for consumers to reside in or receive services.
- The Final Rule pushes for person-centered planning, community inclusion, more integration with the non-disabled or “neurotypical” population, and greater choice in where they live, who they live with, and who provides their services.
- The Final Rule also warns against “congregate” settings that keep individuals together with others like themselves or staff for most of the day instead of being “in the community.”

# Implications of the Final Rule for SC DDSN and Service Providers



- DDSN and DHHS have 5 years to get the necessary changes implemented (also applies to elderly and those with mental health problems getting Medicaid services).
- DDSN, DSN Boards and Service Providers must move from “provider-controlled” settings and programs to “consumer-controlled” settings and programs.
- This could present problems for many DSN Boards and Service Providers who own group homes, staff them and provide all the services in them ... as well as Day Programs that have consumers spend most of their day just with other people with disabilities like them and staff.

# Provider-Controlled vs. Consumer-Controlled Scenario 1



- A consumer is awarded a residential services funding slot and moves into a residence; what if it doesn't work out well for them?
  - In a **Provider-Controlled** scenario, the Service Provider owns the home, decides who will live there, and provides all the staff for all residents in the home.
  - If the consumer doesn't like it, they will probably have to move somewhere else – but where? Another county?
  - The consumer may have to move out of the area to find a suitable residence in which to live or a service provider that meets their needs.

# Provider-Controlled vs. Consumer-Controlled Scenario 2



- A consumer is awarded a residential services Medicaid waiver funding slot and moves into a residence; what if it doesn't work out well for them?
  - In a **Consumer-Controlled** scenario, it's the Consumer's home: they own it or have a lease that gives them rights to live there, they decide who will live with them, and they decide who will provide services in their home.
  - If the consumer doesn't like the service provider staff or their room-mate, they stay in their home and get a new room-mate or service provider!
  - They maintain their connections to family, friends, church, social groups, jobs, etc. in their community.

# Osprey Village: A Consumer-Controlled Residential Services Provider



- We intend to implement a **Consumer-Controlled** residential services setting for ALL of our residents:
  - Everyone (disabled or non-disabled) who rents a home or apartment from us will have a lease – some may actually own their home.
  - Osprey Village will setup a separate housing subsidiary to own and manage our residences.
  - We will also setup a separate service provider corporation to provide services to any consumer either inside or outside of our residences.
  - Consumers will be free to contract with any service provider to provide services in their residence or elsewhere.

# Osprey Village as Service Provider



- Osprey Village was approved in February by DDSN as a Qualified Service Provider! We plan to begin providing some services later this year, which could include:
  - Respite Care services
  - Vocational Training
  - Employment Supports
- DDSN plans to open up the “intake” process to service providers starting in October; we are actively investigating providing that service since we get so many inquiries from families both locally and nationally.
- We are also investigating renting or purchasing a home in which to start providing residential supports services for two individuals in order to gain expertise in this endeavor prior to opening up our residences in our planned Osprey Village “neighborhood with a purpose.”