



A Six-Month Status Report on Auditor General Report No. 2008-025, "Agency for Persons with Disabilities Consumer-Directed Care Plus Waiver Program"

FA-07/08-003

April 2008

This report provides the status on recommendations originally presented in the Auditor General Report No. 2008-025, dated October 2007 as required by Section 20.055(5)(g), Florida Statutes. The original report was titled "Agency for Persons with Disabilities Consumer-Directed Care Plus Waiver Program."

Background:

The Consumer-Directed Care Plus (CDC+) Waiver Program was designed to allow consumers to direct their own care and manage the budget allocated for their care needs. The State provided consultant and fiscal/employer agent services to the consumers to assist in assuming their management responsibilities. The Agency for Persons with Disabilities in cooperation with two other State agencies provided oversight for CDC+ Waiver Program and managed consumers.

The Objective:

To determine if appropriate corrective action was taken.

Report Finding 1:

Due to a lack of fiscal controls, CDC+ Waiver Program funds were allowed to accumulate in Developmental Services Waiver Program consumers' accounts instead of being returned to the State.

Current Status:

Effective March 1, 2008, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (Agency) cancelled the contract with the prior fiscal agent and took over the majority of the fiscal agent functions for the program, including the accounting function. The Agency received a summary report from the prior fiscal agent that was in a format that could not be readily used to determine ending balances. The Agency sent a letter, dated April 14, 2008, requesting the consumer information in a specific format. Once the accounting unit receives and reviews the accuracy of the account balances, the Agency will work closely with the Agency for Health Care Administration to ensure that recoupment is implemented as originally planned. It is anticipated that a recoupment plan will be implemented no later than September 1, 2008.

Report Finding 2:

The CDC+ Waiver Program had not sustained the required Federal budget-neutrality status. As the Waiver nears the expiration date of February 2008, the State intends to ensure budget neutrality by recouping excess funds accumulated in consumers' accounts.

Current Status:

The Agency for Health Care Administration indicated that preliminary calculations show the 2007 recoupment resulted in budget neutrality over the life of the program. The 1915(j) was formally approved at the end of March 2008, and the program is now operating under 1915(j) authority. The Agency will continue to review cost-effectiveness as part of their quality assurance process.

Report Finding 3:

The Agency had not implemented the formal monitoring procedures described in the State's CDC+ Waiver Program Operational Protocol.

Current Status:

The CDC+ Program Office began developing various monitoring tools in mid-2007; however, implementation of a statewide, systematic monitoring was delayed when it became necessary to bring the fiscal agent functions in-house. Now that the transition to in-house payment processing is complete and successful, and the 1915(j) with its extensive monitoring requirements has been approved, the Agency will revise the tools to include the 1915(j) requirements prior to implementing a comprehensive monitoring plan. Full implementation of monitoring is to begin no later than July 1, 2008.

Conclusion:

The CDC+ Waiver Program has gone through significant changes in the last six months. As a result the Agency is still in the process of addressing all of the findings noted above; therefore, this report will remain open.