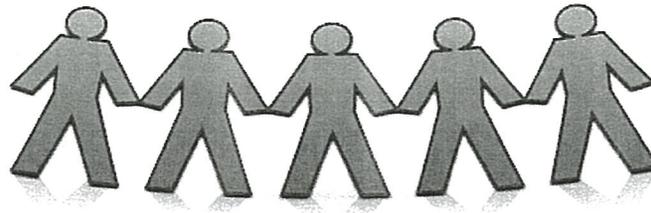


# DDW Implementation Update

Use of the SIS, Group Assignments,  
Reassessments and Fair Hearings



**ACT New Mexico**  
Access Community Together

The DDW Implementation is part of a state initiative called:

“Access Community Together”

or

“ACT – New Mexico”

DDSD wants to ensure that people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities get the support and services they need to live the life they prefer in their communities.



**ACT New Mexico**  
Access Community Together

For more information on ACT NM:  
<http://actnewmexico.org/>

ACT – New Mexico is a person-centered, community oriented approach that emphasizes:

- That people with ID/DD be in charge of their lives as much as possible.
- That people with ID/DD have opportunities to organize resources in ways that enhance their lives and help them participate and contribute in their communities.
- The wise use of public dollars and recognizes the contribution that people with ID/DD and their families can make to one another and their communities.
- That the system is managed in a way that is efficient and fair.



## **WHY IS NM DOH/DDSD USING THE SIS?**

# WHY IS NM DOH/DDSD USING THE SIS?

- Identify Support Needs
- For Person Centered Planning
- Resource Allocation

**Supports Intensity Scale®**  
**Interview and Profile Form**  
Adult Version (ages 16 and up)

IDENTIFY INDIVIDUAL

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date SIS Completed \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Language Spoken at Home \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Individuals or Organizations Providing Essential Supports Gender  Male  Female  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Other Persistent Information \_\_\_\_\_

Responder name	Relationship to individual	Language Spoken
1 _____	_____	_____
2 _____	_____	_____
3 _____	_____	_____

Interviewer \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_  
Agency/AFSA/Other \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Resorder Information**  
To order additional forms, call 801-866-1140, or email [aaidd@bbkshy.com](mailto:aaidd@bbkshy.com)  
Order number: #231—25 forms, #232—100 forms, #230—Manual + 25 forms, #233—Manual only  
James R. Thompson, PhD David A. Satchels, PhD  
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American Association  
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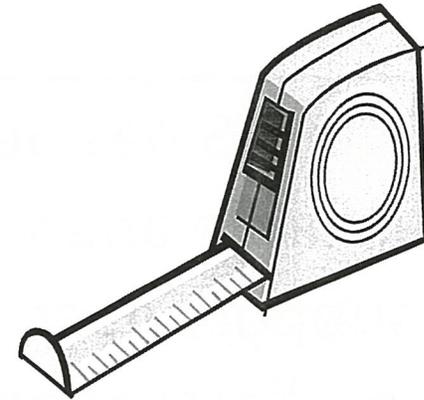
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# WHAT IS A SIS ASSESSMENT?



# What is a SIS “Assessment”?

An assessment that measures a person’s support needs.



This is done during an interview with people who know the individual’s support needs well

# Validity and Reliability

The SIS has been demonstrated to be a reliable and valid tool that measures the support needs of an individual with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

**A reference list of Research Studies Reporting Data from the *Supports Intensity Scale*<sup>®</sup> in Peer-Reviewed Academic Journals is available**

# Are SIS Assessments Conducted In Languages Other Than English Valid?

Numerous peer-reviewed research studies document the high reliability and validity of the SIS with individuals whose primary language is other than English

Written testimony from AAIDD is available

# SIS Interviewers

- American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) developed and administers the SIS assessment, and maintains quality assurance data across all qualified assessors.
- Quality of SIS assessments is reviewed by DDSD through monitoring of the contract with AAIDD.

# Supplemental Questions

- Supplemental questions ( SQ's) may be administered at the end of the SIS assessment as an additional means to identify extraordinary behavior and/or medical needs

# After the SIS Assessment

- Individuals are assigned to a NM DDW Group that is based on their assessed needs.
- There are seven main groups. The Groups are labeled A to G, and range from low to high support needs. People in each group have similar support needs.

# Verification Is A Safeguard

- The purpose of the verification process is to confirm that each individual is assigned the appropriate group (A-G) based solely on the SQs”
- From HSRI: NM Process for Verification of NM Supplemental Questions

# SIS, NM Group Assignments and Service Packages

- Are evidenced based
- Includes quality assurance components
- Has safeguards
- Includes opportunities for Medicaid fair hearings at many points in the process

# NM DDW Group Assignments

New Mexico DDW Groups	Prior to Verification		After Verification*	
	Individuals	Percent	Individuals	Percent
<b>A</b> Mild Support Needs and Low to Moderate Behavioral Challenges	354	10.9	352	10.9
<b>B</b> Low to Moderate Support Needs and Behavioral Challenges	482	14.9	473	14.6
<b>C</b> Mild to Above Average Support Needs and Moderate to Above Average Behavioral Challenges	408	12.6	369	11.4
<b>D</b> Above Average Support Needs and Low to Moderate Behavioral Challenges	862	26.6	854	26.3
<b>E</b> High Support Needs and Low to Above Average Behavioral Challenges	327	10.1	311	9.6
<b>F</b> Extraordinary Medical Challenges	399	12.3	404	12.5
<b>G</b> Extraordinary Behavioral Challenges	412	12.7	481	14.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,244</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,244</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* After verification column includes adjustments for supplemental question verification as of July 1, 2013.

# Group H Is A Safeguard

Group H may be temporary or long term. Group H assignments allow an individual to receive services they need that may be outside of their original DDW Group Assignment and corresponding service package.

# Reassessments As A Safeguard

- During the first year of implementation reassessments are an assurance offered to individuals transitioning into the new waiver
- Requests for reassessment occur when individuals may not have a clear understanding of the SIS results and available service packages. When an explanation is provided by DDSD, individuals have withdrawn their request
- Changes to NM DDW group assignments may be attributable to changes in condition or life circumstances, to changes in who participates in the assessment, or other unique factors
- In the future, reassessments will be conducted if there is a problem regarding administration of the SIS or change in condition

# Medicaid Fair Hearings Are A Safeguard

- From 1/1/2013 to 8/6/2013 fair hearing requests related to SIS and NM DDW Group assignments and service packages total 32
- Requests represent approximately 1% of the population assessed
- DOH agency conferences are offered by DOH/DDSD to informally attempt to resolve issues
- As of July 29, 2013, 17 claimants withdrew or abandoned their fair hearing

# Transition to NM SIS Provider

Critical considerations for a SIS Provider:

- Specialized group for quality and consistency
- History of excellence and experience in the field
- Credibility
- Capacity: Scope larger than a traditional DDW provider includes data management, scheduling, quality assurance, training, reporting and transparency
- Long term commitment
- Start-up costs in recruitment, training and functional data management system are significant
- Conflict of interest issues

# A Word of Thanks!

Material in this slide has been developed in collaboration with key and dedicated DDSD employees. Slides have been developed and adapted from materials provided by and the Human Services Research Institute and AAIDD.