

## **LOUISIANA STATE REPORT 2021**

### **ICF**

Louisiana remains with 2 ICF's as of 2020. Our facility, Pinecrest, has increased population to about 450 residents as a result of Hurricane Laura in 2020 that destroyed Robinswood facility in Lake Charles, Louisiana. We were concerned about the budget for our facility, but there were no cuts this year.

The state will relocate Central Hospital, which is for mentally ill patients and will build a new 120 bed facility on Pinecrest grounds. We are told it will have it's own entrance with a 10 ft. fence around to keep residents segregated from each other.

Pinecrest is allowing parents to visit our loved ones for two hour visits a week. Residents who have had both COVID shots are now allowed to go home for visits without having to be quarantined.

We are not yet allowed to drive to cottages to get our kids, we call and the home brings them to us at a designated place.

We are seeing some restrictions being lifted but we are not back to normal yet.

### **Non-ICF**

The budget for the last 2 years has remained steady. In 2020, while some budgets were cut, the legislators dictated that the ICF and Waiver budget was to remain the same. This year, there were no budget cuts. We still need pay to private providers to go back to what it once was before 2008 in order to allow for better caregiver pay.

Training of caregivers was moved from 40 hours before working with clients to 4 hours during the pandemic. That should change in the next couple of months.

Sheltered workshops and day centers are opening on a very limited basis and still trying to figure out how to open up completely.

Medicaid restrictions that were relaxed during the pandemic will again be implemented starting July. This is causing some concerns about spending down surpluses built up when clients could not go on outings.

The Louisiana Department of Health has been directed to find a way to provide comprehensive dental care to adults with I/DD on waivers and in ICF's by the State Legislators through HB 172 and HCR 34. This care is to mirror the care already provided to children and was supported without opposition in both the House and Senate.

Louisiana has been blessed with a representative, Representative Rhonda Butler, who has a son living in a private ICF. She is already working on ways to get the funding required next year for the comprehensive dental care as well as boosting pay to private providers with direction it should increase pay to direct care staff and keeping sheltered workshops/day services in place.