

# Division of Developmental Disabilities

## The ARC 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Informational Seminar | 2026

## Division Mission, Vision and Values

**Systems transformation reflects our updated Mission, Vision and**

**Mission:** We support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to access person-centered, high-quality services that meet their needs, preferences, and goals.

**Vision:** A coordinated, responsive, and person-centered service system that provides consistent access to high-quality supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities across Illinois.

**Values:** Respect, Equity, Inclusion, Collaboration, Accountability, Transparency and Person-Centeredness are the principles that guide us as we work to remove systemic barriers and create lasting opportunities for people.

Tonya Piephoff  
Director  
Division of Developmental Disabilities



## Chief of Staff Office Accomplishments

- Proposed Governor's FY27 Budget Proposal that includes:
  1. \$33.9M for 630 more individuals add to the adult waiver
  2. \$13.3M for increased to Home Based Program (HBS) including 2.5% increase related to SSI increases
  3. \$24.0M DDD Guidehouse \$0.60/hour age increase for Direct Support Professional (DSP) effective 1/1/27
  4. \$37.5M DDD Guidehouse Zero Hour Staffing Model effective January 2027
- New CILA rate calculator so all providers to utilize to better understand and project possible rates
- Completed the roll out of the Specialty Telehealth and Assessment Team (STAT) service. More than 2000 people have taken up this service thus far and 857 calls were made between July and October 2025.
- Collected data for the DDD Strategic Planning Process including holding 3 townhall meetings, receiving feedback from more than 1000 stakeholders through a survey and focus groups. Anticipate the release of the DDD Strategic Planning Roadmap in the next month.

Meg Cooch  
Chief of Staff



## Ligas Consent Decree Accomplishments

- Met or exceed reasonable pace selection of individuals off the PUNS list, adding 731 individuals in the waiver in FY25 and selecting individual waiting between 45 and 60 months. Added smaller, more frequent selections from PUNS, during the year to address the individuals with the very highest wait times so they do not have to wait a full year to apply for services.
- The number of individuals on the Adult DD Waiver has grown by 80% from 13,432 in 2011 to 24,287 in 2025
- FY26 Implementation plan – The Proposed 2026 IP is intended to function as a multi- year plan that outlines strategic approaches to strengthen home and community-based services and supports for Class Members. Areas of focus include:
  - Supports for individuals with complex mental health (MH), behavioral management, mobility, medical and/or physical health (PH) challenges;
  - Enhance independent service coordination (ISC) capacity for providing transitional supports from institutions to home and community-based care;
  - Enhance home and community-based service provider capacity for serving Class Members with complex challenges.
  - Focus on informed choice for all Class Members regarding all available services, including HCBS, and elicit information about Class Members' satisfaction with services.

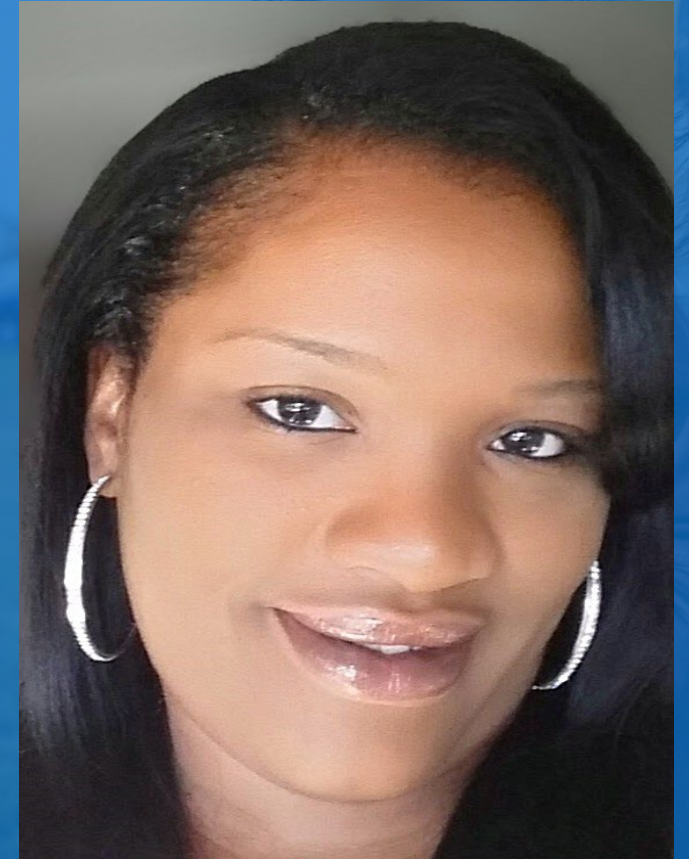
Joy Decker  
Deputy Director  
Ligas Consent Decree



## Community Services Accomplishments

- Processed 10,579 individual funding requests in 2025.
- Supported 166 adults and 53 children entered waiver services via crisis so far in calendar year 2025.
- Received approval from CMS for all 3 DDD waiver amendments with an effective date of 01/01/2026.
- Submitted Waiver Performance Measure data for FY23, FY24, and FY25 submitted to CMS for all 3 DDD Waivers.
- Building capacity and supporting providers of home and community-based services including:
  - Funded 118 providers to train staff on de-escalation methods to support individuals with high behavioral support needs.

Alicia Robinson  
Deputy Director  
Community Services Program



## SODC Accomplishments

- Camera Project: Implemented at 5 of 7 SODCs, with remaining 2 centers going live by end of FY26.
- Staff Training: Completed 11 Grand Rounds trainings and launched Safety Care de-escalation training beginning July 2025.
- Strategic Partnerships: Continued collaboration with SIU, Equip for Equality, and ILADD.
- Community Transition Efforts:
  - Community placement list increased 268 → 319
  - 519 transition visits to community providers (Jan–Oct 2025)
  - Choate Transition Progress: 8 residents remain of the original 123 residents transitioned to preferred environments.
- Reintegration Funding Program: Supporting 16 individuals.
- SST Contract Expansion: Assisted 54 individuals transitioning from SODCs to community supports.
- Safety Initiatives: Safety Officers hired across SODCs; Safety Summit held at Shapiro, with Mabley scheduled Spring 2026.
- Community Engagement: Residents participated and placed in Special Olympics events.
- Quality of Life: Cozy Café opened at Shapiro Center for staff and residents....great cheeseburgers!

Rhonda Knockum  
Assistant Deputy Director



## Clinical Services Accomplishments

Jennifer Gentile  
Deputy Director  
Clinical Services

1. Behavior Services
  - a. Behavior De-Escalation Training Reimbursement IB. This provides up to \$16,500 per provider for behavior training
  - b. 56U Billing Guidance IB
  - c. Behavior Support Plan Guidance IB
2. Stabilization Home
  - a. 56 individuals were supported
  - b. Completed the Request for Applications for the Stabilization Home expansion
  - c. Identified two new external providers (UCP Seguin and Trinity Services)
  - d. Expanded the short-term homes and introduced long-term homes
3. Transition Homes
  - a. New admissions scheduled for FY26
4. Medication Administration
  - a. Competency-Based Training and Assessment IB
    - a. Provided guidance for Virtual CBTAs
    - b. Improved the CBTA process
  - b. GLP-1 Trainings
  - c. Insulin Pump IB
    - a. Allows insulin pumps in CILAs
    - b. Created insulin pump readiness SAMA
    - c. Created insulin pump trainings and assessments for staff and individuals



## Looking Forward:

1. Budget finalized
2. SODC transitions
3. Strategic Plan
4. Continued training opportunities

