

## Health Risk Screening Tool (HRST) Statewide Progress Update ODP Announcement 19-146

### **AUDIENCE:**

Supports Coordination Organizations, Residential Providers, Administrative Entities/County Programs, Health Care Quality Units, and Registered Nurses who will complete the HRST Clinical Review

### **PURPOSE:**

To provide an update to stakeholders on statewide progress of the implementation of the Health Risk Screening Tool.

### **OVERVIEW:**

On July 1, 2019, the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) began implementation of the Health Risk Screening Tool (HRST) for individuals receiving residential services. The HRST is a reliable, normed, and objective tool used to detect health risks and destabilization early. The HRST assigns scores to 22 health and behaviorally related rating items. The resulting total score results in a Health Care Level (HCL) that indicates an associated degree of health risk. The Health Care Level is predictive of longevity and mortality. Once an individual has been fully screened, the HRST produces suggested action steps in the form of Service and Training Considerations that inform supporters on how to respond to objectively identified risks. It is important to understand that the HRST measures health risk not disability. The HRST is designed and intended to empower supporters with information needed to more effectively oversee the health and welfare of the individual.

### **DISCUSSION:**

We would like to thank all stakeholders who have contributed to the screening process thus far; a great deal of effort has gone into the implementation of this important initiative. The use of the HRST is already enhancing the health and wellness of individuals, and the sooner that screenings are completed, the sooner the individual will benefit from this process.

ODP established the ambitious goal of completing screenings for the over 14,000 individuals in residential services over a 12-month period. ODP established benchmarks for a timeline for providers to complete screenings based on the individual’s need level, see below.

<b>HRST Screening Schedule Months (2019-2020)</b>	<b>HRST Phase</b>	<b>Needs Level</b>
July - August 2019	1	7
September - October	2	7
November - December	3	6
January – February 2020	4	3 to 5
March - April	5	2
May - June	6	1

To date completed screenings have fallen behind the established benchmarks, with completed screenings continuing to increase weekly. As of October 29, a total of 1,617 individuals have been screened. 1,043 of the anticipated 2,754 individuals with Needs Level 7 have been screened. 2,555 people have completed the Online Rater Training and 1,358 are in the process of completing.

The number of registered nurses who have completed the face to face Clinical Reviewer Training is also lagging behind anticipated goals. This training is necessary to complete the Clinical Reviews on individuals who score a Level 3 or higher for the HCL. As communicated in [ODP Announcement 19-134](#), there is one final round of trainings for Clinical Reviewer remaining for 2019.

All residential providers are expected to use the HRST. ODP will continue to monitor provider progress closely to ensure that screenings occur in a timely manner and expects compliance on the tool’s use. As of this time, ODP is not pursuing enforcement activities, recognizing providers that are making a good faith effort to implement and utilize the tool.