

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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## JOINT MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Joint Committee of Health and Human Services  
Joint Committee of Appropriations and Financial Affairs

**FROM:** Mary Mayhew, Commissioner of Health and Human Services  
James Rier, Acting Commissioner of Education

**DATE:** December 26, 2013

**RE:** Annual Report, Children in Transition

Dear Senator Craven, Representative Farnsworth, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services,

As you are aware, State Statute at 20-A §7258 (1-B) requires an Annual Report. “The Department (of Education), in conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Services, shall report to the Joint Standing Committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over Health and Human Services matters and to the Joint Standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over Appropriations and Financial Affairs regarding Transition Planning for the Adult Services System and the number of persons 16 years of age or older on waiting lists for services for persons with autism or intellectual disabilities provided by or under the authority of the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services.”

A multi- department workgroup began meeting monthly starting July 2013 to examine all the state statutory provisions regarding transitions to adult services and the responsible parties for each with a goal to establish a clear, collaborative, integrated approach to transition individuals into adulthood. The multi-department workgroup developed this report referenced in 20-A §7258(1-B) for January 1, 2014.

As of the December 1, 2012 federally required Child Count there were 427 children ages 16-20 under the eligibility criteria of autism and 224 children ages 16-20 under the eligibility criteria of intellectual disabilities. According to data from the Maine Care system as of November 6, 2013 there were 166 clients ages 16-20 receiving either PNMI or Section 28 services under the criteria of autism, and 238 clients ages 16-20 receiving either PMNI or Section 28 services under the criteria of intellectual disability.

According to the Office of Aging and Disability Services (OADS) Central Office within the Department of Health and Human Services there are 853 clients waiting for Section 21 services, Home and Community Based Benefits for Members with Intellectual Disabilities or Autistic Disorder, and 465 clients waiting for Section 29 services, Support Services for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities or Autistic Disorder, as of November 25, 2013. OADS maintains a waitlist of eligible MaineCare members who cannot access waiver services because of lack of funding and limits on the numbers served within a waiver.

All eight DHHS Districts are participating in functioning Transition Teams that identify, coordinate and support youth, their parents and schools in the transition process to adult life. These teams are meeting to structure an early identifying process that will allow for development and planning of necessary services, as early as age 16. OADS has drafted a process which will enable family members to refer their child for review at the District-level transition meetings that will be ready and in use by May 2014.

OADS and the Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) continue to work toward one common data system which will enable the District Teams to collect information regarding eligibility and potential need for adult services beginning at age 16. This process will also better inform OADS about the number of eligible youth moving into the adult system as well as their diagnosis and support needs. This process will also inform budgetary projections for future service needs.

We hope that the above information is helpful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact either of us if you should have any questions or require any additional information.



James E. Rier, Jr., Acting Commissioner  
Maine Department of Education



Mary C. Mayhew, Commissioner  
Maine Department of Health and  
Human Services