

# ***Division of Long Term Supports and Services Bureau of Developmental Services***

**Rate Structure Work Group  
October 20, 2023**



# Agenda

- I. Introduction of the new Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) assessment contractor, Public Consulting Group (PCG)
- II. Proposed process for performing assessments
- III. Proposed rate considerations and the Supports Intensity Scale – Adult Version (SIS-A) data, Myers and Stauffer
- IV. Upcoming Rate Work Group meetings
- V. Questions

**This Rate Setting Work Group is open to the public. Members of the public may ask questions through the Q&A or Chat features.**

**This structure ensures that the Department can engage a diverse group of stakeholders in substantive dialogue while also providing transparency and general updates to the general public.**

**If you are a member of the public and have questions about the Rate Setting Work Group and/or its work, please contact [BDSRateStructureWorkgroup@dhhs.nh.gov](mailto:BDSRateStructureWorkgroup@dhhs.nh.gov) and a response will be provided as soon as possible.**



# SIS Contractor



# PCG Introduction

Mary Elizabeth Lipcsak, Project Coordinator

Brittani Trujillo, Quality and Subject Matter Expert

Emily Crawford, Project Manager



# Supports Intensity Scale – Adult Version™ 2nd Edition

The New Hampshire Department of Health, Division of Long-Term Support  
Services

*October 2023*

# Agenda

|                               |      |
|-------------------------------|------|
| Who We Are                    | 3-5  |
| SIS-A Highlight               | 6    |
| SIS-A 2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition | 7-11 |
| Questions                     | 12   |



# Who We Are

# Introductions



**Emily Crawford**  
Project Manager



**Mary Elizabeth Lipsak**  
Project Coordinator



**Brittani Trujillo**  
Quality and Subject Matter Expert



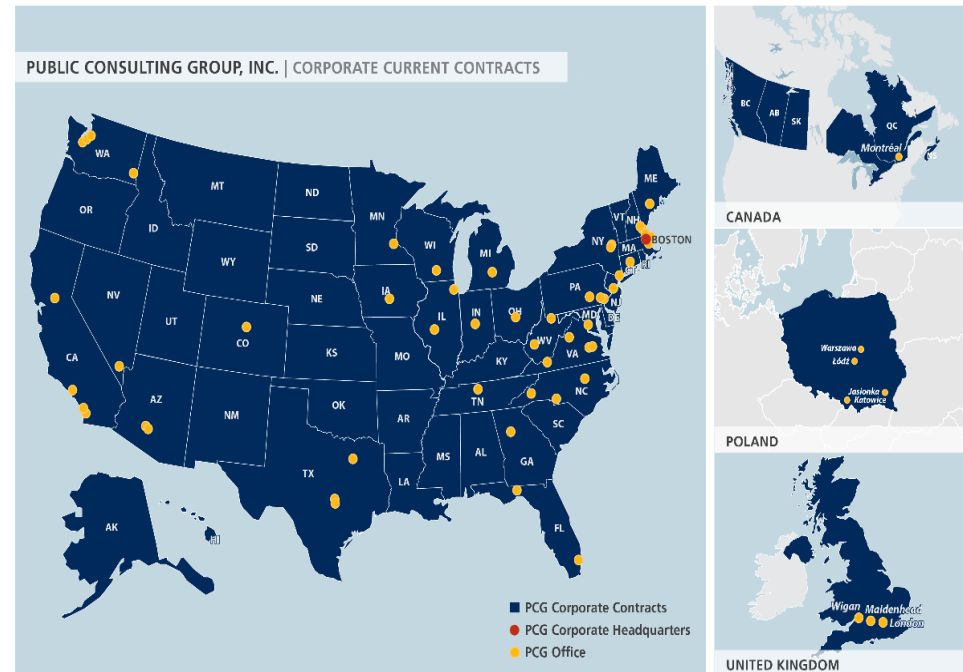
**Lori Williams**  
Quality Lead and Trainer





# Overview of Public Consulting Group

- Founded in 1986, PCG is headquartered in Boston, MA and employs more than 2,500 professionals in 40 offices
- Management consulting to assist public sector agencies better serve their targeted populations
- Five Practice Areas
  - **Health**
  - Human Services
  - Education
  - Technology Consulting



# SIS-A State Highlight

- ✓ PCG is the vendor responsible for implementing and standing up the SIS-A assessment program in Vermont
- ✓ PCG has conducted more SIS-A 2nd edition assessments than any other state and/or vendor, making our assessors more experienced than any others.



# Supports Intensity Scale – Adult Version™ 2nd Edition

# Overview of the SIS-A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

- The SIS-A™ is a standardized assessment that measures the pattern and intensity of supports an adult (16 years and older) with intellectual and developmental disabilities requires to be successful in community settings.
- Updates the first version, originally release in 2004 and refreshed in 2015 by the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD). 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the SIS-A was released in January 2023 and includes updated norms as well as several enhancements.
- Completed in a group interview with people who know the individual very well.
  - 2 respondents, including the individual must be present during the assessment
- A qualified assessor guides the discussion and helps the respondent team determine accurate ratings during the interview
- The SIS-A measures an individual's
  - **Exceptional Medical and Behavioral Support Needs**
  - **Support Needs for Life Activities in the areas of** Home Living Activities, Community Living Activities, Health and Safety Activities, Lifelong Learning Activities, Work Activities, Social Activities, Advocacy Activities



# SIS-A 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Release

- Assessments can take 2-4 hours so please plan accordingly
- Section 1 of the SIS-A consists of Exceptional Medical and Behavioral Support needs.
- Section 2 is where discovery happens. Respondents and the assessor discuss what supports would best fit the needs in 7 adult life settings.
  - Strengths based focus
  - Consider the individuals potential, strengths and positive qualities
  - Does not focus on what the individual cannot do but what they CAN do with the right supports
- The team will determine the right combination of the type of support, frequency of support, and daily support time needing to help the individual be an active participant in the same life activities with other adults in their community.



# Benefits of the Changes to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the SIS-A

- New norms ensure that a person's scores remain meaningful in comparison to today's population rather than with people from over 20 years ago.
- New items added to the Exceptional Support needs section will provide better distinctions in support need and ensure that important support needs are not overlooked.
- The supplemental Protection and Advocacy (P&A) Activities scale is renamed Advocacy Activities scale to better reflect the agency of the individual assessed.
- The Advocacy Activities scale is incorporated into the SIS-A as a normed scale which broadens the understanding of a person's overall support needs and identifies the supports a person with IDD needs to advocate for themselves.



# Benefits of the Changes to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the SIS-A

- Data analysis confirms that the SIS-A remains a valid assessment of support needs among adults with IDD up to age 84.
- The Employment Activities scale is renamed Work Activities to clarify that its focus is on support needed to engage in meaningful work activities across the adulthood and is applicable to older adults who may have retired from the workforce.
- The reorganization of some sections, scales, and items makes the interview more efficient and flow more smoothly.
- Minor edits in the wording and phrasing of headings and item descriptions provide greater clarity for users.



# Plan For Rolling Out the SIS-A

- ❑ Implementing SIS-A assessments in November 2023
- ❑ PCG will work the Department to develop a SIS-A Referral Process
- ❑ PCG will work with the Area Agencies to schedule assessments
- ❑ 3 Full Time assessors
- ❑ Anticipating ~120 assessments per month





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Questions



**Solutions that Matter**

# SIS-A Assessments and Rates



# SIS Levels Developed for New Hampshire

- SIS Assessments will continue to be conducted.
  - The resulting score, along with responses to supplemental questions, will be used to match assessed needs with support level.
- New Hampshire will use seven SIS levels to identify rates.
  - This model is similar to programs in other states.

| <b>SIS Level</b> | <b>Support Needs</b> | <b>Behavioral Support</b> | <b>Medical Support</b> |
|------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Level 1          | Little to None       | Low                       | Low                    |
| Level 2          | Moderate             | Low                       | Low                    |
| Level 3          | Little to Moderate   | High                      | Low                    |
| Level 4          | Moderate to High     | Low to High               | Low                    |
| Level 5          | High to Maximum      | Low to High               | Low                    |
| Level 6          | High to Maximum      | Low to High               | Extraordinary          |
| Level 7          | High to Maximum      | Extraordinary             | Low to High            |



# Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver Current Services

21

- Community Participation Services (CPS)
- Community Support Services (CSS)
- Residential Services
  - Staffed Residential Homes
  - Enhanced Family Care
  - Other Residential Services
- Respite
- Supported Employment (SEP)



# Components Adjusted for SIS Informed Rates

- Direct Support Professional (DSP) Wages
- DSP Training Hours
  - This is factored into the DSP Productivity Factor
- Staffing Ratios
- Support Levels for Residential Services



# Upcoming Rate Work Group Meetings



# Upcoming Rate Work Group Meetings

**November 17, 2023 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

*Location: Philbrook (PATH) Granite Conference Room 121*

*South Fruit St. Concord, NH*

**December 1, 2023 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm**

*Location: DHHS Brown Building Brown Auditorium*

*129 Pleasant St. Concord, NH 03301*

- These meetings are planned to provide information on various rate components and data sources used for the development of initial rate calculations
- In person attendance is required for Rate Work Group Members
- Members of the public can attend in person or virtually. Feedback and commentary can be submitted to [BDSRateStructureWorkgroup@dhhs.nh.gov](mailto:BDSRateStructureWorkgroup@dhhs.nh.gov)





# Questions?

