

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Community Respite Services for Adults

Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6052
Chapter 415, Laws of 2019
(partial veto)
66th Legislature
2019 Regular session, Section 203 1(h)

January 1, 2021

Developmental Disabilities Administration
Office of the Assistant Secretary
PO Box 45310
Olympia, WA 98504-5310
360-407-1500
www.dshs.wa.gov/dda

Transforming Lives

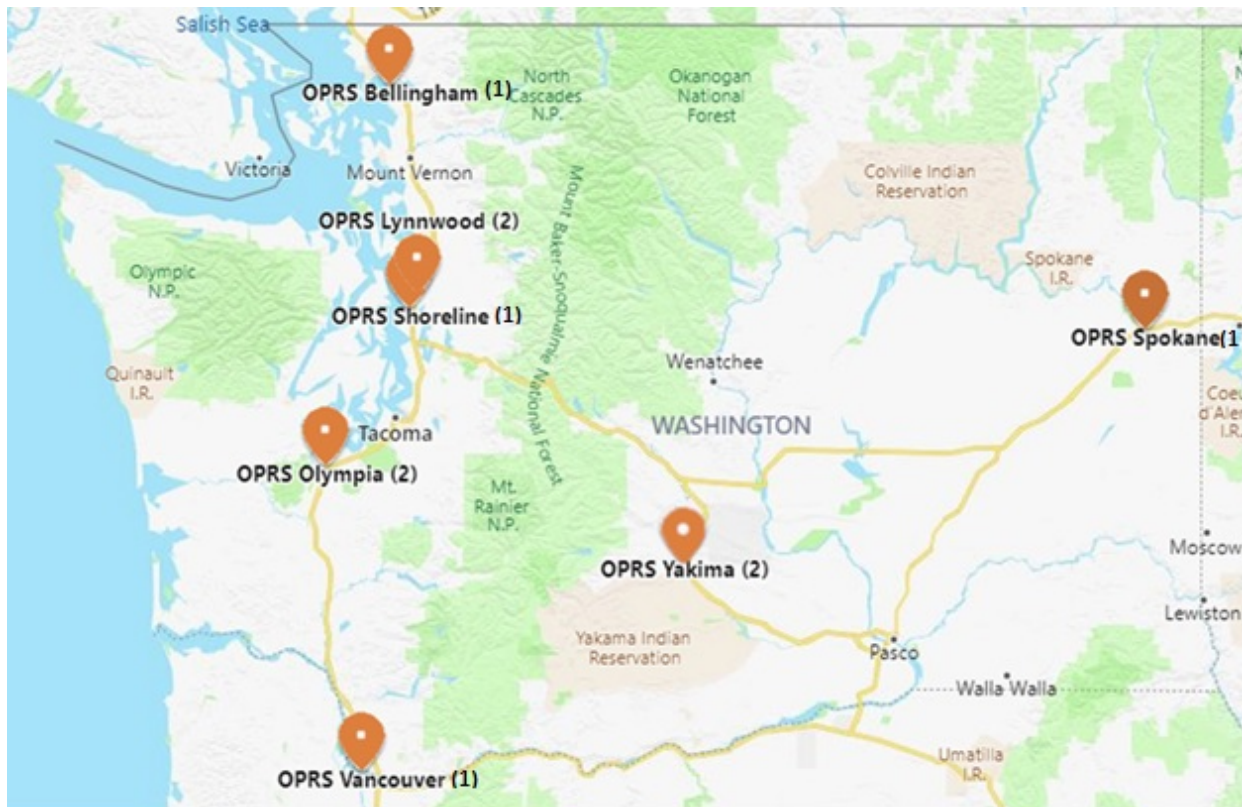
Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT	1
CURRENT UTILIZATION AND BARRIERS	2
SURVEY FEEDBACK RESULTS	3
SUMMARY	5

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the 2015-2017 biennial budget, the Washington State legislature passed ESSB 6052 appropriating funds to the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) for the development and implementation of eight overnight planned respite beds for adults age 18 and older with developmental disabilities. In the 2017-2019 biennial budget, funds were allocated to General Funds State (GFS) to allow for full utilization of the eight respite beds, as this service does not receive Medicaid match. In the 2019-2021 biennial budget, funds were appropriated for an additional five planned respite beds.

Overnight Planned Respite Services (OPRS) Overview		
Fiscal Year	Legislative Action	Cumulative # of beds
2015-2017	Funded 8 OPRS beds	4
2017-2019	Rate increases and GFS allocation	8
2019-2021	Funded 5 additional OPRS beds	10



BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Legislative Charge

DDA began providing Overnight Planned Respite Services (OPRS) in January 2016 after the Legislature funded eight community-based respite beds for families across the state. OPRS provides access to short-term respite by a DDA contracted and certified provider, and is available to all eligible DDA clients. These services provide families and caregivers with a break

in caregiving and create additional capacity to serve the short-term needs of adults with developmental disabilities. The service is provided in an integrated setting that supports client access to the local community.

ESSB 6052 required DDA to develop a respite utilization report annually and continues in current statute. The report must include:

- 1) The number of individuals who have used community respite in the fiscal year; and
- 2) The location and number of days per month that each bed was occupied.

The majority of DDA clients with developmental disabilities are supported by their families in the community. DDA recognizes the on-going need for families to have access to respite services in their local communities. Some families utilize the Residential Habilitation Centers (RHC) for respite care; however, the number of beds to provide respite in those settings is limited and costly.

CURRENT UTILIZATION AND BARRIERS

The table below illustrates Overnight Planned Respite Services utilization during fiscal year 2020. At the end of FY20, there was a total of ten contracted respite beds. Due to the COVID pandemic, agencies began to suspend service in March 2020 and remained suspended until the end of FY20.

Overnight Planned Respite Services Utilization Rates FY20					
Location	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Comments
Yakima	68%	55%	44%	0%	Service suspension began 3/24/20
Yakima	62%	66%	15%	0%	Service suspension began 3/24/20
Bellingham	72%	86%	71%	0%	Service suspension began 3/14/20
Shoreline	56%	61%	35%	0%	Service suspension began 4/01/20
Spokane	68%	82%	42%	0%	Service suspension began 3/16/20
Olympia	73%	89%	83%	0%	Service suspension began 4/01/20
Olympia	76%	65%	68%	0%	Service suspension began 4/01/20
Lynnwood	70%	63%	10%	0%	Service suspension began 4/01/20
Lynnwood	70%	74%	26%	0%	Service suspension began 4/01/20
Vancouver	67%	48%	45%	0%	Contract began 8/5/2019; service suspension began 4/01/20
Total	68%	69%	44%	0%	

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Number of client respite stays in FY19	87	99	74	87
Number of client respite stays in FY20	96	99	71	0

Some clients may have utilized respite on more than one occasion.

Barriers to Accessing Overnight Planned Respite Services

- 1) Some families who have accessed respite in an RHC are reluctant to change to a community-based service option.
- 2) Respite beds may be unavailable during the time period requested by the families due to honoring family's choice in respite service dates.
- 3) The current rate structure does not support 2:1 staffing. There are clients whose behavioral or medical support needs require more than one staff to adequately meet their needs.
- 4) Clients with high medical acuity have needs that exceed the community-based respite setting available services without an additional nursing component.

Other Respite Services

The table below shows the number of clients who utilized planned respite at the various RHCs.

Utilization of RHC Planned Respite for FY20		
RHC	Location	Utilization
Fircrest	Shoreline	3 clients
Lakeland Village	Medical Lake	3 clients
Rainer School	Buckley	1 client
Yakima Valley School	Yakima	176 clients

Some clients may have utilized respite on more than one occasion.

SURVEY FEEDBACK RESULTS

Survey Information - Overnight Planned Respite in the Community

From July 2019 through June 2020, thirty-nine Overnight Planned Respite surveys have been completed. DDA surveyed clients and their families. The service satisfaction survey consists of three questions using a rating scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest positive score possible. Average scores and comments from clients and their families are included below.

Overnight Planned Respite Survey Results- FY20	
Survey Metrics	Results
Rate the way you / your family member were treated	4.68/5
Rate the comfort and cleanliness of the environment	4.68/5
Rate the availability of activities in-home and in the surrounding community	4.69/5

Client and Family Testimonials

- "My son loved to stay throughout 7 days in respite. I was so glad that we got that respite care in Vancouver, WA. Thank you very much for us to have a great opportunity

participating in your service. And people who work there is very nice. :) "God bless all of you guys." thank you!!"

- "Excellent care, they knew what they're doing taking care of (client). They're experienced staff, they are very nice. (Client) is happy and well taken care of. We like (client) to come back here. Thank you so much."
- "(Client) had a wonderful time! Staff (especially Cathy) made her feel loved and comfortable. It provided a much needed respite for me!"
- "I appreciated the fact that my son had the same caregiver nearly every day. He treated my son with respect and kindness. He knew that my son loved to go out on walks so he took him out several times daily. He thrived in his care."
- "My brother enjoys staying at the respite home, everyone is so good to him & I don't have to worry about leaving him there I know he is in good hands. This is the best thing they started, this really helps families/caregivers to have time away. They need more of these homes in Spokane & other cities. Thank you Respite."
- "(Client) was very well taken care of. Everyone was friendly and she was happy when we returned. We felt very at ease with staff. Would love to use it again. We loved it!!"
- "Caring staff, very reliable, great communication, integrity to process. A great resource for families."
- "The staff is so friendly. Our daughter loves her 'bed and breakfast' as we call it."
- "Staff is helpful and friendly. Stayed busy the whole time I was here."
- "They are amazing people! They take such great care of my son. He loves it there!"
- "Thank you for providing a safe place for our loved ones when we need a break."
- "I had a good time."
- "I wish to thank the staff at Holly House for their amazing care for my son."
- "(Client) had never been in respite care. They took excellent care of (Client) and we were worried about him but he adjusted well. Thank you!"

- "Client went out for several activities during the stay - He seemed to enjoy his respite also - (a great thing) as he is willing to again, if needed. Thank you!"

SUMMARY

Overall, feedback from families that have utilized the OPRS has been positive. Families caring for their adult children continue to express an on-going need for respite and the Developmental Disabilities Administration remains focused on expanding the service in local communities as allocated by the Legislature.