



Information Concerning the State of Georgia's Contract with Delmarva Foundation

Who is Delmarva?

Delmarva Foundation is a non-profit Quality Improvement Organization. Our mission is to improve health in the communities we serve. Recently, we were awarded a contract through the Department of Health and in collaboration with the Office of Developmental Disabilities to develop a system to look at the supports and services individuals with developmental disabilities receive from the state. Our goal is to increase the effectiveness of each provider's services and supports they render to people with developmental disabilities.

The system we are developing includes gathering information from individuals receiving services, their family member and the staff that support them. The information we gather will help us to assist providers to improve services Georgia citizens with developmental disabilities receive.

Why is the state doing this and do we have a choice?

As part of the 2005 Georgia HCBS waiver application which allows the state to get money to support individuals with developmental disabilities, the State was required to specify how it would design its Quality Assurance Strategy. Part of those specifications was to enter into contract with an experienced External Quality Review Organization (EQRO) (like Delmarva Foundation) to help plan and implement what is now known as *Georgia's Quality Management System (GQMS)*.

Where does the money for this contract come from?

When the development of the new NOW and COMP waivers began, it became clear that the DD services system and the system's Quality Management Strategy needed to be re-designed. The Georgia General Assembly appropriated funding in State Fiscal Year 2007 to enable the largest expansion of community DD services in Georgia's history.

Part of the appropriated funds were to be used for infrastructure improvement including:

- Improving the Quality of Support Coordination
- Provider Development and Staff Training
- Professional consultations for participants with complex medical needs
- State funding for medications not covered by Medicaid
- Rate adjustments to meet the needs of individual participants who experience significant behavioral or health challenges
- Increased capacity to investigate instances of consumer neglect and abuse
- Increased waiver utilization management capacity



**Georgia Quality Management
System**

- Additional Certification and Monitoring staff
- Additional staff to assist participants in transitioning from institutional to community settings

It is important to note that funding for the work Delmarva is doing here in Georgia **does not reduce** the amount of money the State has for services or the amount of services individuals may receive. The state funds used for this contract were infrastructure funds and were never appropriated for direct services. Using an EQRO like Delmarva allows Georgia to “pull down” a 75% federal match to any funds the state spends to build its quality management system. The current Delmarva contract is for \$2.5 million. This total is funded through the federally allowed 75/25 match which required Georgia to fund \$645,000 of the contract.

If you would like more information about us please visit our web site at (www.dfmc-georgia.org) or call our office at 1-866-755-3506.