PUNS Information for Students with Developmental Disabilities

*Prioritization of Urgency Need for Services

PUNS is a database that registers individuals who want or need Developmental Disability Waiver services.

- Community Integrated Living Arrangements
- Home Based Supports
- Child Group Homes
- Supported Employment
- Adaptive Equipment
- Other Supports

As funding becomes available, individuals are selected from PUNS and invited to apply for DD Waiver Services.

What is PUNS? Click here:

PUNS Designated Employee for Bement CUSD 5
Elizabeth Lang
Director of Special Education
Macon-Piatt Special Education District
eelang@dps61.org
217-362-3055

For residents of DeWitt, Macon, Piatt and Shelby County:

- Prairieland Service Coordination, Inc (PSCI) in Decatur, IL is the service coordination agency for persons with developmental disabilities for Clark, Coles, Cumberland, DeWitt, Douglas, Edgar, Effingham, Macon, Moultrie, Piatt, and Shelby counties.
- Lezlie Haynes is the PUNS coordinator and she can be reached at 217-362-6128 or email: lezlie.haynes@psci.info

Supporting documents needed (State required):

1. Most current IEP
2. Most recent Psychological evaluation that includes the individual's full scale IQ.
3. If the individual was diagnosed with Autism, the evaluation/testing that was completed by the psychologist/doctor who diagnosed Autism.

If you do not have the supporting documentation, you can sign a consent to release confidential information for the service coordinator and they can fax to the offices for the needed documents.

Once the agency receives the supporting documents, they will review to determine if the individual is eligible for PUNS. If eligible, the agency will schedule a meeting to complete the initial PUNS paperwork and get it entered into the state database. At this time, they are on a waitlist.

Annually, the state requires a PUNS update to stay on the list. The service agency will reach out to the family to get this done. If this is not done, the PUNS becomes overdue, and the state requires the agency to close the case. If they are closed, and the family wants to reopen their PUNS, the individual must start over on the bottom of the waitlist.

Once the individual turns 18 years of age, it can be up to five years for the individual to be drawn from the list to receive funding for services through the Medicaid waiver.

In recent years, the state did pull young adults and children from the list and will continue to do so as long as there is money in the budget. It is important for the individual to be on the list as soon as possible.

Once the individual is drawn from the list, they can receive services such as: personal supports, respite, behavioral support, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech/language therapy, assistive technology for communication, adaptations to the home or vehicle, intermittent nursing services, support to work in the community with a job coach, support to engage in work in a day treatment facility, and residential services like a group home, a community integrated living arrangements home (CILA), and residential services with less than 24 hour supports like laundry, shopping, and cleaning assistance.