





SSA Cost of Living Adjustment

- SSA announces every year
- This is the highest increase by percentage in the last 4 decades!



SSA Cost of Living Adjustment

	2022	2023
Social Security Disability Thresholds		
Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA)		
Non-Blind	\$1,350/mo.	\$1,470/mo.
Blind	\$2,260/mo.	\$2,460/mo.
Trial Work Period (TWP)	\$ 970/mo.	\$1,050/mo.
Maximum Social Security Benefit: Worker Retiring at Full Retirement Age		
	\$3,345/mo.	\$3,627/mo.
SSI Federal Payment Standard		
Individual	\$ 841/mo.	\$ 914/mo.
Couple	\$1,261/mo.	\$1,371/mo.
SSI Resource Limits		
Individual	\$2,000	\$2,000
Couple	\$3,000	\$3,000





Consultative Exams (CEs)

- When DDS is supposed to order a CE:
 - If there is no medical evidence from the last 6 months
 - If there is not evidence for every "allegation" in the medical records
 - If evidence comes from a provider that is not an acceptable medical source
 - Physician
 - Psychiatrist
 - Psychologist
 - Advanced Practice Registered Nurse
 - Physician Assistant
 - Audiologist



Consultative Exams (CEs)

- DDS Examiners should contact us to confirm client can make the appointment day/time and will have transportation
- Department of Social Services (DSS) will take claimants to all disability appointments
 - Must have advanced notice
 - Does not operate on weekends when CEs are sometimes scheduled



Consultative Exams (CEs)

- Remember that our goal is ideally for clients not to go to CE
- These appointments tend to be very brief and with a provider that does not know client
- If we can assist client to build medical evidence before making claim, that is ideal



Sending Medical Records

- Focus on sending records from a year before alleged onset
- If you want to establish longevity, can send older records but only main highlights such as discharge summary



Attorney No Contact List

- One time email to Angela Herron to state that DDS should NOT contact your clients
- Each case manager must do this for themselves (cannot be for entire agency/program)
- This will put you on a list
- Examiners are supposed to check this list before making contact
- If examiner contacts your client directly, contact Angela to report it



SOAR Training

- Reminder that no one can submit SOAR cases until they have completed all training requirements
- Angela Herron has a list of fully trained people and will not transfer the case to the SOAR designated examiner if training is not complete





End of Year Meeting

- Held every year in December
- Half day including lunch
- Opportunity to review the year's progress and challenges
- 2020 and 2021 were virtual but historically has always been in person
 - In Raleigh so that DDS could join



Survey

- Thank you to those who completed it!
- Results (23 responses):
 - 82% want 2022 in person
 - 95% could travel to Raleigh
 - 50% would have financial support from agency
 - 45% were unsure
- Thoughts?
- Is in person "worth it"?
- Is in Raleigh "worth it"?



Tentative Schedule

- Welcome
- DDS Year in Review presentation
- DDS popular topics activity
- Lunch and time with grief activity
- DEI scenarios with SOAR TA Center
- Year in Review with Sarah
- Closing
- Like?
- Dislike?
- Missing? MSR





