

Innovative and Flexible Day Services Committee

Illinois Division of Developmental Disabilities

Recommendations to Director Greg Fenton

May 17, 2016

The Innovative and Flexible Day Services committee has been meeting on a routine basis for the past several months to review and determine recommendations that would advance the services and supports provided to individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities during the day. The committee is comprised of self-advocates, families, community providers, and staff from the Division of Developmental Disabilities. To avoid duplication with statewide Employment First efforts, the committee assumed that employment would be an essential option and focused efforts on how to enhance and/or increase other opportunities available to people. Further, the committee has not addressed the issue of inadequate rates, as efforts are also already underway to fully examine the current situation and possibilities. However, it must be emphasized that without adequate funding the transformation of our current system will not be successful.

Recommendations flagged with an asterisk have been identified as those most easily implemented in a budget neutral situation. Other recommendations require additional resources or have a longer term implementation strategy that must be developed.

➤ **Establish a clear set of values for the Illinois service delivery system.**

The committee strongly supports the following values:

- *Person-centered practices guide the vision of the service delivery system.*
- *A full array of productive and challenging opportunities exist within the system to compliment employment.*
- *Services should be flexible to maximize community participation and support people on a more individualized basis or with a small group of others with similar interests.*
- *Services are customized for people with more significant support needs, including high behavioral supports and medical needs.*

“Developmental Training” (both name and traditional model) must be retired.

*Values are formally documented and communicated statewide.**

➤ **Align rules and regulations with the vision for day services and supports in Illinois.**

*Revise Rule 119 to license services and support and not only physical locations. Language must be aligned with person-first values.**

*Establish core elements of service that must be offered (at minimum) by a community provider (perhaps in the format of a provider implementation guidance document).**

Amend Rule 116 to allow the administration of medication in day services to increase flexibility.

Assure that rules and practices align with the new CMS Home and Community Based Waiver changes.

- **Expand the current base of knowledge and capacity in Illinois by creating opportunities to learn from other states.**

Partner with community providers, families, and self advocates to host individuals or groups from other states for learning sessions to explore and dialogue around innovative practices.

- **Change current practices to allow for greater flexibility for people that cannot or do not wish to participate in group settings.**

*Expand the definition of “at home services” or 37U to include community participation and other activities outlined in the person-centered plan.**

*Revise the current “enhanced rate” or 53R/D system to be compatible with 37U, or develop a new process that accommodates these needs.**

*Create more meaningful opportunities for individuals who are of retirement age.**

Explore partnerships or memorandums of understanding outside of DDD, including, but not limited to park districts and Department of Aging.

- **Increase flexibility within the CILA structure to allow people to choose services that better meet their needs, other than licensed Developmental Training programs.**

Develop an approval process for current CILA providers to operate a non-developmental training program. The process should include the ability for individuals in CILA to use the portion of the rate for day services for these services.

Amend the Medicaid Waiver, if necessary, to include an additional service category.

- **Establish standards that maximize the person’s choice for day time activities within the Home Based Services program.**

*Convene an ad hoc workgroup to consider the risks of HBS dollars indirectly funding providers that have no association with the state.**

Develop assurances for situations where the person with a disability is served only in their home by family caregivers that are funded through the HBS program, thus confirming that the person-centered plan is being implemented as the person desires.

Learn from models that promote self-direction and customization that have already been developed.

Note: The committee has established a sub-committee dedicated to exploring how best to serve people who have extraordinary support needs. It is expected that additional recommendations will be forthcoming. Also, the committee looks forward to the release of the Vision Quest report, as rates is of significant concern presently in our current system. Rates must be addressed to move our system for day time services forward to one that aligns with the values of person-centered practices.

In closing, it will be important for these recommendations to be considered as one piece of the overall transformation of the Illinois system that provides services and supports to people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. The work of the Employment First efforts, Vision Quest, Life Choices, Quality Committee, and other important initiatives or movements currently underway must be discussed mutually to make the most informed decisions moving forward.

We must embrace the fact that we need to shift from funding programs and start funding people based on their unique interests and needs!

Respectfully submitted:

Steering Committee - Innovative and Flexible Day Services Committee

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