

The Arc of Minnesota
Consumer Directed Community Supports Update
December 30, 2003

Representatives of The Arc of Minnesota and the Minnesota Disability Law Center met with staff from the Minnesota Department of Human Services to seek clarifications in the latest CDCS amendment that was distributed two weeks ago. Frankly, some this information is difficult to share, but here are the clarifications:

- The range in individual daily budget rates will be \$20 – 200/day when the new budget methodology is implemented.
- The new budget methodology for CDCS takes information from the DD Screening Document and computes the new rates. DHS will be sending us a copy of the categories in the screening document that impact the rates.
- There are currently 2400 individuals on CDCS in Minnesota. DHS is projecting that up to 1000 individuals (40%) may drop off CDCS when the new budget methodology is implemented, due to decreases in budgeted amounts.
- Counties will be sharing individual budget information calculated under the new budget methodology system with current CDCS recipients within the next month or when that information is distributed by DHS.
- Environmental Modifications & Provisions – an individual can spend more than \$5000 if it comes out of the individual budget if the county approves that budget. If the individual budget cannot accommodate an expense above \$5000 then the individual can request additional funding from the county.
- Paying Parents of Minor Children (p.11 of the long document) – The Long Term Care Screening Document will be used to identify what activities parents can be reimbursed for performing. DHS will soon be providing us with a link to these documents so parents can familiarized themselves with it.
- The current rate for PCA services is \$14.92/hr. This is the rate families would receive if providing this PCA services. Employment expenses would come out of this rate.
- Licensed programs such as Day Training and Habilitation (DT&H) and licensed respite can be paid for under the new system. All of these expenses would be part of the individual's budget.
- CDCS \$ will not pay for service dogs. According to DHS staff, other means are available to pay for service dog expenses.
- Training can be paid for as currently available on the waiver, but expenses related to training – travel (mileage), lodging etc. are not reimbursable.
- Flexible case management expenses will come out of the consumer's CDCS budget; other case management services will be paid by the county.

Other information: It will be important that the DD Screening Document accurately reflects the needs of the individual with disabilities under this new budget methodology system. Families will want to ask for a new screening if individual needs change or you think your current screening is not accurate. In the near future DHS will make an updated screening document codebook available on line.

The Arc of Minnesota will be developing a response to DHS's request for comments by January 15, 2004. We encourage you to share your comments with DHS by sending them to DHS.DSD.CDCSamend@state.mn.us

We also ask that you send copies of your comments to mail@arcminnesota.com so we can summarize all of your comments in one document.

DHS has asked that your comments contain the following information:

- Specific examples of areas with which you agree or view as positive developments
- Specific examples of areas with which you do not agree or view as having detrimental effects
- Ideas about how you would change the proposed amendment or would resolve the problems that you have cited.

It was clear in our correspondence and discussions with DHS that we should not expect many, if any, changes to the substance of the amendment language but that there are certainly clarifications of language that are needed.