

Consumer Directed Community Supports (CDCS) Update
The Arc of Minnesota
August 12, 2004
www.arcminnesota.com

The Minnesota Department of Human Services' Disability Services Division (DSD) this week has shared a number of documents with counties that will soon be forwarded to CDCS recipient's and their families. In addition counties received permission to begin sharing individual budget information with their constituents. **During this time it is important to remember that for individuals currently using the CDCS option, your state-set budget (if it decreases your CDCS budget) will go into effect one year from the date of the next annual review or April 1, 2006 (whichever is earlier).** During that time period individuals and families will be urged to either revise the support plan within the budget or to choose to receive other MR/RC waiver services. See the attached memo titled "Consumer Directed Consumer Supports is Changing October 1, 2004" from DSD. In addition that memo states "If an individual's budget amount increases from their current budget amount, that new amount will be available to the recipient on October 1, 2004."

We want to emphasize that only persons receiving budget increases will be impacted (budget wise) immediately on October 1, 2004.

Having just received permission to share the budget information counties are now actively planning on how they will be notifying families. Some will notify recipients by mail and others will be arranging to meet with individuals and families personally. Several counties have assured us that they are working hard to get the individual budget information out as soon as their systems for doing so are in place.

It is important to thoroughly read the attached memo titled "**Consumer Directed Consumer Supports is Changing October 1, 2004.**" This memo outlines suggested activities that consumers and families should take to prepare for the implementation date of 10/1/04, outlines criteria for allowable expenses and defines allowable and unallowable expenses.

For those families that plan to take advantage of the new option to Pay Parents of Minors and Spouses you will want to closely review that memo.

The memos from DSD distributed to counties this week include (see attachments):

- Consumer Directed Consumer Supports is Changing October 1, 2004
- Paying Parents of Minors and Spouses
- Flexible Case Management

What steps is The Arc of Minnesota taking (Our website will be updated with this information by Monday 8/16/04)?

- Sharing any current information with consumers and their families.
- Meeting with DHS and counties as necessary to get clarifications and updates.
- Data Collection - In order to begin to assess the impact of CDCS changes, please go to The Arc of Minnesota web site at www.arcminnesota.com and fill out and send in the CDCS Data Collection Sheet. This information is vital in our analysis of CDCS and will be shared with the organization hired to evaluate the impact of the CDCS waiver amendment.
- Family Stories - Again go to the website and review the Family Stories outline and complete.
- Developing and updating a CDCS Question and Answers section on our website to address frequently asked questions (see attachment).

The CDCS waiver amendment and its implementation will impact families quite differently. Some families will benefit for the option of being able to pay themselves for providing services. Other families will have to plan differently to continue to provide inclusion opportunities, while others will be forced to transition off the CDCS program and into more costly formal services because of insufficient budgets.

After analyzing how your family is impacted by these changes, please help us collect your stories and any statistical and financial information that will define the amendment's impact. Do this by going to our web site www.arcminnesota.com. We will work to make this valuable information part of the independent evaluation process that has been required by the federal government