

THE ARC OF MINNESOTA

Fact Sheet on the CDCS Amendment

Background:

The Department of Human Services (DHS) has recently submitted a proposed amendment concerning the Consumer Directed Community Support Services (CDCS) option under the Home and Community Based Waivered Services program. The amendment was submitted to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), which is the federal agency that must grant final approval.

The Arc of Minnesota has submitted comments to DHS and CMS, which "finds the Amendment as currently proposed to be unacceptable". The amendment was prepared with very little input from stakeholders in the past year, and reverses previous policies of DHS which had committed the state to move towards a service delivery system that is truly consumer directed and affirms the principles of self-determination for individuals and families. Without consulting the legislature, DHS has ignored the legislative intent to establish a consumer directed system.

The Arc of Minnesota Position:

When contacting your state legislators, please make the following points:

1. The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) *needs to talk with families and other stakeholders* and then redraft the CDCS amendment so it truly supports a consumer driven system.
2. DHS predicts that *1100 of the current individuals on CDCS will not be able to stay on CDCS* because of reductions in their individual budgets. This is unacceptable.
3. The CDCS option is *working for families*. DHS's own study of the CDCS option shows that consumers using the CDCS option have generally been very satisfied by increasing access to authorized care and tailoring services to individual needs. CDCS has promoted greater continuity of care with lower staff turnover rates because of the ability to pay higher wages. This is an improvement over the traditional service system, which has often failed families.
4. The CDCS option has also allowed for the purchase of generic supports. The needs of persons with mental retardation and related developmental disabilities for generic services or supports may be different from the population as a whole. But the *CDCS option allows for individualized supports that meet the particular needs of the person*.

Some of the provisions of the amendment that Arc cannot support include:

- Budget Methodology: The method DHS is using to calculate individual family budgets under CDCS does not provide sufficient funds to ensure the health and safety of individuals. The budget is based on average costs associated with the failed traditional system where families could not find staff to utilize their authorized hours. The costs of Day Training services (DT&H) services will not be covered outside the CDCS budget, as they are in the traditional service system. DHS estimates that at least 40% of the people using the CDCS option will be forced to drop out because of way budgets will be calculated.
- Restrictions on Expenditures under CDCS: The restrictions will affect the ability of individuals to meet their individual needs, provide for their health, safety and welfare, and promote their access to a meaningful life in the community.
- Three Month Service Authorization: Huge administrative costs are created by requiring service authorization plans to be created every three months. There has been no documented need to require this counterproductive step.

The Arc of Minnesota urges legislators to contact the Department of Human Services and express your concerns about the proposed amendment. Please ask DHS to talk with families and redraft the amendment so it truly supports a consumer directed system.