



Memo

Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

DATE: February 25, 2005

TO: The Honorable Linda Berglin, Chair
Health and Family Security and Corrections Budget Division

The Honorable Fran Bradley, Chair
Health Policy and Finance Committee

FROM: Shirley York
Director, Disability Services Division
Minnesota Department of Human Services

SUBJECT: Consumer Directed Community Supports Service, required update on the independent evaluation.

In *Minnesota Laws 2004, Chapter 288, Article 3, Sec. 32* the Department is required to provide the legislature with an update regarding the Department's efforts monitor the following;

1. Whether any current consumer-directed option participants will have their funding reduced so significantly that their health, safety, and welfare at home will be jeopardized;
2. Whether replacement services will cost more or be of lower quality than their current consumer-directed services

Specifically, Chapter 288, Article 3, Sec. 32. states;

Sec. 32. [CONSUMER-DIRECTED COMMUNITY SUPPORT EVALUATION.] The commissioner of human services, in consultation with interested stakeholders, including representatives of consumers, families, guardians, advocacy groups, counties, and providers, shall evaluate the new consumer-directed community support option under the home and community-based waiver programs, as required by the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The evaluation shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of whether any current consumer-directed option participants will have their funding reduced so significantly that their health, safety, and welfare at home will be jeopardized, and whether replacement services will cost more or be of lower quality than their current consumer-directed services. The preliminary findings of the evaluation shall be provided to the house and senate committees with jurisdiction over human services policy and finance by February 15, 2005.

Background on the CDCS Service schedule of implementation:

Individuals who were using the former CDCS service have until April 1st 2006 to adjust their service plans to meet their new budget. Training for case managers emphasizes that the new service plans must protect the health and safety of the individual, or that person will not be eligible for CDCS, Ineligible persons will automatically be eligible for the array of services available under the MR/RC waiver. The

Department is monitoring individuals who choose to leave the CDCS option and those who exit the option on an involuntary basis, so that alternative services can be monitored for cost and quality.

Independent evaluation:

In addition to internal monitoring procedures, the Department has hired a contractor to conduct an independent evaluation of the implementation phase of the CDCS service through January 2005. Other evaluation activities will take place to measure the positive and negative impacts of CDCS on individuals that occur after this time frame.

The independent evaluation contractor has conducted stakeholder meetings, and in-depth interviews with advocates, DHS staff and administrators. A survey of county administrators and case managers is currently being conducted. Preliminary data are as yet unavailable. A future surveys of consumers and fiscal support entities will collect information on the impacts of budget changes on consumers.

Evaluation report:

The evaluator has recently submitted a report on the current status and history of the evaluation. The report and other information regarding the evaluation is available on the DHS public web site by going to www.dhs.state.mn.us/dsd and clicking on CDCS service under **Related Links**, and clicking on the "Independent Evaluation" under **Additional Resources**:

(http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/disabilities/documents/pub/dhs_id_038744.hcsp). For a paper or fax copy of the report, please contact:

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Minnesota Department of Human Services

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