

Supporting People with Developmental Disabilities: Recommendations for Medicaid Reform

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To the HHS Bipartisan Commission on
Medicaid Reform

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Lutheran Services in America

Together we can

Lutheran Services in America (LSA)

- An alliance of two national Lutheran church bodies and their health and human service organizations.
- Nearly 300 health and human service organizations are members of LSA.
- The organizations provide services in thousands of communities in all 50 states and the Caribbean.
- The organizations deliver over \$8 billion in services to over one out of every 50 people in the United States each year.

LSA-DN (Disability Network)

- LSA member organizations that provide services for people with disabilities, the majority of whom have developmental disabilities.
- LSA-DN organizations provide supports and services in 32 states.
- Majority of LSA-DN member organizations have served people with developmental disabilities for over one hundred years.

Mosaic

- Over 93 years of experience
- Supports and services provided in 72 communities in 15 states.
- Supports provided to 3,476 people
- Employs 4802 staff
- An operating budget of 165 million dollars
- 85% of the operating budget is from Medicaid

Who LSA-DN Supports

- The most vulnerable people funded by Medicaid.
- People with intellectual and other developmental disabilities, many of whom have multiple disabilities.
- They are poor. As a group, people with developmental disabilities have incomes well below the federal poverty level.
- Medicaid is their lifeline.
- Without Medicaid, even basic welfare and safety are lost.

Recommendations for Reform

LSA-DN is committed to an America where it is common place for people with developmental disabilities to have meaningful participation in their communities.

LSA-DN has the following position statements and recommendations for Medicaid reform:

Position #1

People with developmental disabilities deserve fair and appropriate supports and services that are adequately and equitably funded.

Recommendation #1

Medicaid Policy should provide adequate and equitable reimbursement for services provided on the basis of individual needs.

Recommendation #1 (cont.)

- Individual needs should be determined using a consistent and equitable assessment.
- Funding should be directly tied to needs.
 - Without regard to service model chosen.
 - Without regard to whether services are privately or publicly administered.
- An individual should be able to use Medicaid funding to choose services.
- Procedural protections and due process should be a requirement of all state plans.
- Stakeholders should be included in the development of state plans.

Position #2

People with developmental disabilities have various needs that do not always warrant costly and highly regulated supports.

Recommendation #2

Medicaid policy should encourage more flexible supports and regulations that are necessary in integrated community living and are valued by the consumer.

Recommendation #2 (cont.)

- Flexible supports should be allowed.
- A critical review of regulations should occur.
- Administrative and regulatory burdens should be minimized.
- Technology for billing, compliance, and development of creative supports and services should be utilized.

Position #3

Millions of Americans with developmental disabilities are not receiving any Medicaid funded supports.

Recommendation #3

Medicaid policy should allow all eligible individuals with developmental disabilities access to Medicaid supports as needed.

Recommendation #3 (cont.)

- States should be required to develop and maintain an accurate waiting list.
- States should be required to have an active plan for eliminating waiting lists.

Position #4

People with developmental disabilities should be enabled to live in their communities.

Recommendation #4

Medicaid policy should support reforms that coordinate the provision of skilled support staff and affordable and accessible housing and transportation for people with developmental disabilities.



Recommendation #4 (cont.)

- Medicaid policy should coordinate with other government funding sources to ensure consistent eligibility and to determine adequacy of decent, safe, affordable and accessible housing and transportation.
- Medicaid policy should support an adequate workforce.
- One stop options should be considered for all supports and services provided through public assistance.

Thank You!

We welcome the opportunity to explore these and other recommendations with you.



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