

Unlocking the Future From the Perspective of the year 2010

A. What we want:

Services and supports are driven by the needs, preferences, and voices of the individual.

Changes we support:

- 1) Individuals and their families have the choice to direct their own services, control an individual budget, and hire friends and relatives qualified to deliver paid services.
- 2) Teachers and parents are trained to recognize and understand the preferences their children and students.
- 3) Services and supports including special education are the result of best practice in individual planning such as Person Centered Planning.
- 4) At least one community member of the participant's choice will be involved in the annual planning process.

B. What we want:

How to access and choose services and supports is easy to understand.

Changes we support:

- 1) Individuals, families and others will have access to timely and accurate information about services, supports, providers, and resources through Informing Families Building Trust website and other measures.
- 2) People will be informed about the information on long term supports and Medicaid that is available through the Aging and Disabilities Resource System.
- 3) An up-to-date list of qualified employment and residential providers will be provided to people with DD and their families.
- 4) A registry service for Individual Providers (Medicaid Personal Care Attendants) will be available.

C. What we want:

The focus for services and supports is on quality and inclusive settings.

Changes we support:

- 1) Everyone who receives paid services will receive a periodic statement that shows the annual dollar amount authorized for their services, what has been spent to date and the balance remaining to pay for their services.
- 2) People will have access to an independent “consumer report” that contains information about consumer satisfaction, compliance data, and quality assurance factors for all types of providers of services to people with DD.
- 3) Opportunities for advancement through credentialing, member organizations, and other programs will generate a more stable, trained, workforce of direct service professionals who receive a living wage and benefits.
- 4) The use of assistive technologies will be expanded beyond mobility and accessibility to facilitate participation in community activities and to connect people sharing similar interests.
- 5) Tasks performed by Individual Providers will be expanded to allow more flexibility to promote employment and participation in community activities.
- 6) We will collaborate with organizations and advocates concerned with the issues faced by seniors and people aging with DD.

D. What we want:

Those who need services or supports have options that utilize multiple funding sources.

Changes we support:

- 1) We will realize that what government can afford to provide people with DD will be affected by the growth in the number and longevity of persons with developmental disabilities.
- 2) Families will be recognized as the most important and permanent unit of development, protection, and lifelong assistance for individuals with DD.
- 3) Case managers collaborate with families in organizing services and supports and focus on the needs of the individual in the context of the needs of their families.

- 4) Tactics such as Circle of Friends, Micro-boards, barter exchanges, and co-ops will be used to promote informal supports and community connections.
- 5) People can purchase services from qualified providers they choose using a “direct billing” or other automated purchasing mechanism such as debit cards.
- 6) A template will be created that families can use to as an action plan to engage their sons and daughters in their communities.
- 7) Individuals and families will have access to information about employment, work incentive programs, special needs trusts and have assistance in opening accounts with the DDLOT.
- 8) Training and counseling for non-paid care givers will be considered as support for people living at home with their families.
- 9) More people with DD own their own homes; have bank accounts, credit cards, and loans.

E. What we want:

People with DD lead meaningful lives in their communities and have relationships with family and friends who are not paid staff.

Changes we support:

- 1) Adults with DD have relationships and activities outside of the home.
- 2) Families will understand the importance of separateness and autonomy in the personal development and maturity for their sons and daughters with DD.
- 3) Personal Agents, Community Navigators or Support Coordinators trained in family dynamics will assist in engaging the individual in their community.
- 4) More post-secondary options such as voc-tech schools, union apprenticeship, and college will be available for people with DD.
- 5) People with DD and their families are included on civic, advisory, and governing boards.

Source:

Unlocking the Future

A Focus group of self-advocates, their families, and providers we have called.

Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council