

October 15, 2014

Members of Work Group SB627

We were instructed to try and fill in the Options Matrix or submit comments on a separate document. Since there were no proposed options that properly addressed the factors, since the factors included the community I could not fill in the matrix. Therefore I am submitting the following.

1. There is no requirement to provide care in a Training Center Environment. However there is a requirement of the DOJ settlement to address care in the community.
2. Additional spending will be required to facilitate compliance of the DOJ settlement by addressing barriers to community integration. The same barriers that some Training Center families are currently experiencing. This money should be put in place to insure individuals who have higher levels of need receive the funding to meet their needs in the community. Expanding Training Centers will make this difficult for Commonwealth to do. If there is "extra" money to be spent- it should be spent on the 10K with equivalent needs who are on waiting lists for community services.
3. People with significant nursing needs must have access to quality community- based services. A facility-based nursing home will not ensure the Commonwealth is fulfilling its obligations under the agreement.
4. Continued use of Training Centers (or institutional models) for respite or crisis stabilization puts the Commonwealth out of compliance. These services must be made available in community-based settings. Current options do not provide for that.
5. THERE IS NO RIGHT TO A TRAINING CENTER IN FEDERAL LAW. The Commonwealth should not be bound to the such an expensive method of service delivery provided only to (and desired only by) a few, when thousands of people with equivalent support needs (including those who currently reside in Training Centers) do not have access to the community-based services that they are entitled to receive in order to avoid unnecessary institutionalization.
6. and finally EVEN IF the community-based services cost more (and they don't)—it is still the right thing to do. Waivers and comprehensive supports in the community must be provided to every Training Center resident in order to avoid unnecessary institutionalization.

In closing, I would like to say as a parent of an adult with significant disabilities on a waiver and another son waiting for a waiver I would love to see this same type of workgroup developed to explore the options for the thousands waiting. I would also be willing to serve on that committee.

Sincerely,

Kim Goodloe