



PUBLIC COMMENT FROM JUNE 28-29 2004 MEETING

7-12-04

1. Seems to be State and Federal agencies like the Centers For Independent Living who get federal dollars and have credibility and accountability for ADA – Civil Rights, IDEA, IEPS, advocacy, independent living skills, peer monitoring, information and referral. Congress just mandated CILS transition.
2. I have had consumers that lost their brand new job or semester at college because it takes too long to get the aids.
3. Many times VR will tell you that “if you get the job/college, we will pay for equipment”. How are we supposed to get to the interview?
4. On your taskforce committee I see a lot of people who are working with people with developmental disabilities but I am unable to find a person with developmental disabilities. I am a person with a developmental disability who also was a provider. I have a master’s degree in sociology of disability and have been researching DD for seven plus years. I have a multicultural background and went from total institutionalization to complete independence. How can I help the taskforce?
5. To include everyone in the input for the committee – town hall meetings on the net are a good way.
6. On Formal Monitoring – What if Grandma moves in and provides care – etc – so mom can go to work and support the family – under both full support coordination or CDC waiver, Grandma may not even be able to read - no more rules we have been stomped on enough!
7. Employment – We need to work with industry standards but as a former employment facilitator I also have to point out that more people lose their jobs because they don’t have the social skill to fit in. Therefore, we need to work on a program to make for the inherent social skill deficit in Person with developmental disabilities. Employer expectation inherent to the job, social skills to sustain and prosper at the job.
8. Why start at employment? I’ve been a “big sister” to a family with a CP child, both to support parents and child. We need to promote ____ at all levels! Create a Big sister/Big Brother agency for person with disabilities.
9. Paid and unpaid support – we need different vehicles for each – Monitoring for paid support, supportive home visits for unpaid support.



10. Concern – standard testing standards often screen people out of opportunities (work, eligibility, etc.) Is there a way to adopt “situational” and “person-centered” approaches to ASSESSMENT? Standardized versus one person at a time.
11. If we attached funding to the need dictated by disability it would not only be individualized but customized!!! Get away from income based support to Person’s ability based support.
12. People with disabilities need to be encouraged to do internships and have a chance to earn \$ and be used for medial needs – like banking points with an employer and a program for employer to have an incentive for the training for job placement.
13. Can you get SSA to place brochures in their offices – seems family members could use this place to pick up pertinent information for DDP – IDEA – ADAD – Transition – IEP, etc. Medicaid is federal dollars and parents need to go to SSA for the check for their child.
14. Expectations – People with disabilities should be given the same dreams and expectations as ALL other individuals. We can do it if we go from asset driven entitlement to disability driven needs!!! Please address this.
15. Transition – If we attach the dollars to the needs created by the degree of disability, transition will be much smoother.
16. Does informal support become formal if paid through CDC+?
17. Will this “task force” be responsible accordingly to mandate statewide all Home Health Agencies to be responsive to the consumer. They need to be there at AM – to be there at PM and if the Home Health provider can not get to someone’s home, then the provider calls another agency or can contract with another agency. This is needed so there is not a break in service of personal assistance care. They must be deemed responsible by a Law!
18. We have conflicting demands now!!! The person centered choice driven credo will be jeopardized by attaching \$ figures to an employer. Furthermore, in doing that, we further erode the “employee’s power.” In order to reach the outcome we desire, we need to attach the funds to the need of the individual based on the need of the disability.
19. Accountability needs to be addressed. Everyone’s needs to be mixed – some consumers at meeting are hard of hearing or need real time captioning for better understanding and input.
20. Given section 2.d., of the Executive Order, consider inviting part C representation to future meetings. Contact person is Monica Ruthowski at Dept of Health.
21. Expand “exposure” to Education, Exposure, and Experience.



22. Often, a person will have a little bit of knowledge about an assistive device and think that particular device will solve their problem(s). In many cases, it will be the wrong device, the wrong size, or perhaps the right device, but it still will not work for the person. Along with any assistive device, there should be qualified assessments and training to use it.
23. In Foster Care –The State contracted agency family continuity program PCP. Their case manager and foster parents need training – FCP are responsible for training the Health and Safety issues let it be broadened and also added into Juvenile Justice.
24. Statewide Transportation – If a person gets a voucher for a van or obtains a van, we need to make sure that it does not exclude those people from TD transportation or transportation assistance, if any car breaks down the person still needs to go to work. We need to encourage funding assistance for yellow cab in every county.
25. Will Agency for Person with Disabilities serve all children with a developmental disability? If no, will the decision to serve be based on economics and/or disability level?
26. Can the agency articulate an expectation of support – resources that are to be provided to individuals?
27. Can the agency differentiate services and goals for people who have varying levels of capacity – does everyone have to get the same services or number of services or dollars?
28. Are competitive employment and economic self-sufficiency realistic goals for every person? Are these the goals of the APD? Will APD support re-creating Florida Statutes to “encode” this paradigm?