The Future of Services for Persons with Developmental Disabilities

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APD Funding

Since the creation of APD and its separation from the Department of Children and Families in FY 05/06, APD total appropriations have remained fairly stable.

- FY 05/06: $1,030,335,234
- FY 06/07: $1,095,154,780
- FY 07/08: $1,194,485,904
- FY 08/09: $1,145,702,437
- FY 09/10: $1,085,445,264
- FY 10/11: $1,013,500,529
- FY 11/12: $1,014,963,478
Medicaid HCBS waiver funding

- Although the Medicaid HCBS waiver received substantial increase in FY 06/07 and FY 07/08, the downturn in the economy and the resulting affect on state revenues reduced waiver funding to its present level. Waiver funding:
  - FY 05/06: $792,432,607
  - FY06/07: $926,169,231
  - FY07/08: $958,015,748
  - FY08/09: $834,273,770
  - FY 09/10: $887,647,385
  - FY 10/11: $805,826,618
  - FY 11/12: $810,437,372
Current and Past Conditions

In recent years, the primary focus of state policy directed at APD and for the population it serves has been to control cost. A number of strategies have been employed in an attempt to achieve this goal. These strategies have included:

• a standardized rate structure,
• prior service authorization,
• pre-payment billing review,
• support coordination;
• capping cost through a tiered structure based on an assessment of needs.
• iBudget
A context of challenges

- Managing existing resources and cost with the approximately 30,000 waiver and implementing
- Leadership changes
- An annual budget deficit
- A rising dissatisfaction regarding the level of funding for those who are on the waiver – competition to secure additional funding or resources or oppose any attempt to reduce funding or resources
- Legal and administrative challenges that have hindered implementation of reforms
- Provider alienation and frustration regarding rates for services
- Loss of credibility by APD with policy makers, advocates and stakeholders
- Frustration regarding a waiting list for services, which now approaches 20,000 individuals.
Assumptions about APD’s future

• State revenues will not grow as fast as the demands for APD services;

• APD funding will be stable or grow incrementally;

• APD will continue to be under pressure to reduce the deficit and control spending;

• Demands for waiver services will continue to grow (e.g., increase prevalence rate for certain groups such as autism related disorders);

• The waiting list for waiver services will continue to grow; and

• The iBudget will be implemented and APD will always administer federal waivers.
The shift APD needs to make

• A recalibration of the emphasis placed on state resources, especially Medicaid HCBS waiver services

• APD as collaborators and facilitators

• Working in an integrated context rather than silos with community organizations, other state and local agencies

• More judicious application of state resources

• More visibility in the community as pragmatic problem solvers

• A more robust utilization of community resources
Current Service Delivery System

Medicaid
HCBS Waiver
Community resources

- Family resources – nurturing, monetary, other supports, family networks
- Schools/education – federal laws, McKay scholarships, centers, interns
- Non profit agencies – YMCA, Boys/Girls Club, scouts,
- Churches/places of Worship – volunteers, specific ministries, donated goods and services
- Community organizations – Rotary, Lions, projects, services, donations, volunteers
- Business – donations, in-kind services, networks, volunteers
- Local government – parks and recreation, county health departments, local children’s council, council on aging
- Other state agencies – DOE, VR, DOE, state parks
Implementation – how do we do this

- Engage in dialogues regarding the constraints and opportunities
- Overcome resistance, cynicism, critics and inertia
- Develop and inculcate a shared value about the future within the APD workforce, and with stakeholder, and consumers
- Become a team
- Organize APD to maximize organizational effectiveness to support this effort at all levels
- Train staff
- Assign a dedicated position(s) or part of the responsibilities of a position(s) to identify, link or assist in developing community resources.
- Engage the community – social networks
- Develop a community resource web site
- Measure success
- Be willing to evolve as the context dictates
How do we measure success

These measures could include, but not limited to;

• Acquisition of resources dedicated to the developmental disability (DD) population. This measure would require and analysis of the impact on funding (non state or federal), new services, in-kind donations of services donated to the DD population, and donation of volunteer hours.

• Acquisition of social capital. This measure would require and analysis of the growth or the development of groups, collaborative efforts and social networks.

• The impact on the APD waiting list. This measure would require and analysis of how many individuals on the waiting list are receiving services or engaged in activities that does not require waiver funding.
APD has strengths to address future challenges

- APD and its predecessor programs is one of the oldest state programs preceding the establishment of other state agencies by decades. In 1921, the first program opened in Gainesville, Florida.

- This long history has shaped a rich tradition of services, programs, advocacy, experience and knowledge in Florida.

- There are numerous community organization and nonprofit agencies, associations, family councils, advocacy groups imbedded in a framework of laws and regulations designed to support persons with developmental disabilities.

- The Agency is fortunate to have staff throughout its statewide organizational structure that has dedicated careers and accumulated years of experience to serving the population.
Conclusion

• Human capital is the strongest asset in APD and in communities. It has knowledge, experience, creativity, and resources.

• It is community members who get things done with ideas, values, willingness to participate, and a collective spirit of achievement.

• The power of working together is the power of community resource development and the future core of the service delivery system for the developmentally disabled.
Let’s engage in the dialogue!

Let’s become an awesome agency!

Thank You.

No great thing is created suddenly. —Epictetus (A.D. 55-135)