

## Aging Caregivers

August 20, 2013 at 10:00 am

### THEMES/CONCERNS

- Housing – Multiple comments were made about transitioning into a group home setting or into a retirement type setting.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop a transition program for individuals with aging parents. The transition program may include weekend visits to a group home and/or a provider to enter the home to provide certain services.
- Aging clients are also being added to the waiver and are in the mindset of retirement. We should be placing these aging clients into a retirement-type setting.
- Need to develop training/counseling/advising for families to set up trust funds to protect assets and inheritance for aging parents and siblings or individuals with developmental disabilities.
- We should not stress the importance of adult day training programs (ADT) and employment first, and we should have more retirement-like options for the aging population.
- Coordinate with the Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA). The Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) needs to understand that aging clients have an increased, rather than a consistent, need. Funding will also need to increase.

### FACTORS TO CONSIDER

- Currently, APD does not have a transition program to transfer individuals from the waiting list to the waiver. APD has a cost plan and enrollment freeze due to years of operating in a deficit. If a client needs additional services or enrollment to the waiver, they will need to apply for either a Cost Plan Amendment Request or Crisis Enrollment. If emergency services are needed, APD can provide a temporary placement, paid by General Revenue funds, to a group home for respite for the caregiver.
- More information is needed for consideration of retirement type settings. Currently, if an individual would like to work, we will assist the individual on getting employment. Also, people can go to an ADT as a meaningful day activity, given there is money in their iBudget allocation. If neither is desired, the individual can be placed in a group home setting that is staffed and capable of providing supervision during the day or activities within the community. APD does not specialize in retirement placement. However, there are some assisted living facilities (ALF) and ADT across the state that offer a special program designed for our aging population.
- The APD Medwaiver is a Medicaid-eligible waiver. An individual must be Medicaid eligible in order to receive Medwaiver services. Medicaid looks at all assets, including inheritance and trusts, which cannot exceed a total of approximately \$2000. However, there is a Special Needs Trust that does allow individuals with disabilities to have the trust and have it not impact Medicaid. APD may be able to develop an informational brochure, however, we cannot require that family and caregivers take training or set up a trust fund for a client.
- The agency has an employment initiative. Governor Rick Scott and APD are strong supporters in assisting and aiding clients in gainful employment. With this initiative, if an individual would like to work, we will work on assisting them in obtaining employment.

Also, an ADT service is not required. However, the Agency understands the importance of meaningful day activities and supports those who would like to attend an ADT to meet the customer's health and safety needs. If neither is desired and the individual would like to have group home staff take them to the local community or provide supervision during the day, APD licenses group homes that are capable of providing that level of supervision.

- APD has an interagency agreement and will look into more ways APD and Elder Affairs can collaborate to assist aging caregivers.