

Testimony
Human Services Committee
Representative Hogan, Chairman
January 4, 2018

Chairman Hogan, and members of the Human Services Committee, I am Tina Bay, Director of the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Division of the Department of Human Services (Department). I am here today at the request of the committee to provide a report pursuant to Section 2 of 2017 Senate Bill No. 2041 regarding the developmental disability Medicaid waiver study.

Background

In the fall of 2016, the Department requested technical assistance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Home and Community Based Services Technical Assistance Project. This request, which was approved in February 2017, is a joint effort involving the Aging Services Division, Developmental Disabilities Division, Medical Services Division and Behavioral Health Division.

The primary goals of the technical assistance provided by the CMS' selected vendor [The National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS)] were to:

1. Conduct a comprehensive review of the states existing Medicaid waiver programs to identify potential paths for eligibility for individuals without an intellectual or developmental disability;
2. Provide the Department with strategies to improve (and maintain) consistency in the application of criteria across staff responsible for applying eligibility criteria;

3. Assist the Department in identifying potential strategies to address gaps in service, such as those to support individuals with co-occurring behavioral health and intellectual or developmental disability needs;
4. Provide technical assistance related to mitigating conflict of interest in case management structures; and
5. Provide information and recommend tools/strategies to the Department related to person-centered practices and planning.

Over the past year, the vendor (NASDDDS) met frequently with Department staff, participated in two stakeholder meetings, and reviewed feedback gathered through a statewide survey.

Recommendations

Attached is a summary which includes the recommendations received from the vendor. Their final report can be found at <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/disabilities/docs/2017-final-report-for-nd-dd-eligibility-service-array-practices.pdf>.

Next Steps

Department staff met mid-December to review the final report and discuss plans to coordinate a meeting on February 7, 2018 to coincide with the Medicaid Medical Advisory Committee in order to review and gather stakeholder feedback on the report.

The recommendations identified in this report are large system changes that impact many areas within the Department and will likely take multiple bienniums to fully implement.

This concludes my testimony and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.