

May 20, 2010 Bill Signing Disabilities Legislation

The O'Malley-Brown Administration's new disabilities legislation impacts Maryland as follows:

SB 318/HB 830: Income Tax Checkoff for Developmental Disabilities

This bill creates an opportunity for taxpayers to voluntarily contribute to the Waiting List Equity Fund (WLEF) through a new individual income tax form check-off box. The Waiting List Equity Fund is used to provide services to individuals who are on the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) waiting list and are eligible for but not receiving services from DDA. Services may include individualized supported living arrangements, respite care, individual and family support services and supported employment.

Senator Kramer, et al.
Delegate Kramer, et al.

SB 633/HB 1034: Community Services Reimbursement Rate

This bill requires the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene an annual inflationary cost adjustment when determining rates paid to developmental disabilities and community mental health service providers. The legislation also requires DHMH, in consultation with specified community service providers, to study and report to the General Assembly on a plan to develop a rate setting methodology for service providers.

Senator Middleton, et al.
Delegate Costa, et al.

SB 920/HB 1226: Developmental Disabilities Administration Low Intensity Support Services

This bill puts into statute a Low-Intensity Support Services program (LISS) in the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) with flexible services to meet the needs of individuals and families. The bill also authorizes DDA to develop a simplified LISS application process and generally codifies existing waiver provisions and eligibility criteria. DDA must establish a cap of no less than \$3,000 per fiscal year to a qualifying individual and must deliver services dependent on the allocation and availability of funds. Low intensity support services include family support services such as respite care, housing adaptations for accessibility or safety, specialized equipment, and personal care services. Low intensity support services can be used to fund attendant care, respite services, training and support for self-advocacy, crisis intervention, employment services, community integration, and other services to maximize independence.

Senator Kasemeyer, et al.
Delegate Hubbard, et al.

SB 465/HB 900: Developmental Disabilities Administration - Recipient Appeals

This bill requires the Secretary of DHMH to provide an opportunity for a Medicaid fair hearing to recipients of Medicaid-waiver services who has been denied services according to his or her plan of habilitation. The notice must be within 30 days of the denial and must include the reason for the denial and appeal instructions. Individuals who receive a written denial notice may appeal the decision.

Senator Lenett, et al.

Delegate Montgomery, et al.