True Caseload Forecasting for DDA Services

The Caseload Forecast Council (CFC) is charged with forecasting the number of persons expected to meet entitlement requirements and need the services of public assistance programs, correctional institutions, correctional supervision, institutions for juvenile offenders, the school system, long-term care, medical assistance, foster care, adoption support, and attendees of higher education.

The CFC adopts official forecasts, which are the basis of the Governor’s and the Legislature’s budget proposals. CFC also does “courtesy” forecasts, which means they provide the numbers to the legislature, but there is no mandate to fund those numbers.

In the 2022 legislative session, Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) was required to have the CFC do a courtesy forecast based on “request lists” for the Individual & Family Services (IFS) waiver, Basic Plus waiver and Supported Living. Because DDA received additional waiver openings last session, there are very few people on request lists right now.

There is a long list of people with IDD who qualify for DDA services, but receive nothing due to lack of funding. These people, more than 12,000 clients, are on a No Paid Services (NPS) Caseload. They are mostly unaware that they need to contact DDA to be added to a “request list”. If DDA programs were forecast, we would not have thousands of qualified people on long wait lists. Last session, DDA was provided with new case managers for the NPS caseload. Once they have been hired and trained, they can begin to determine the needs of people on NPS, but that will take a lot of time.

Currently, a person with a IDD can apply for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) services through DDA, which has no caseload forecasting and only offers a place on the NPS caseload to wait. That same person with IDD, if an adult, can apply for those HCBS services through Aging & Long Term Supports Administration (ALTSA), and get served right away because ALTSA does have caseload forecasting.

DDA must now forecast their own waiver services, which they don’t have the expertise to do. The result is found at https://arcwa.org/2023-legislative-notebook (scroll down to Waiver Utilization under Charts and Data).

You will see that DDA underestimated numbers and overspent by millions of dollars (over $250 million just in residential services).

Legislative ask: Please amend RCW 43.88C.010 to include caseload forecasting for all DDA services including:

- All Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers
- Include the No Paid Services Caseload
- The number of transition students graduating high school
- Children with IDD leaving foster care at age 21
- Individuals with IDD in hospitals/Emergency Rooms with no medical need
- The individuals who are age 60 or older and live with their families
- Clients enrolled in Residential Habilitation Centers on Roads to Community Living

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