

People with IDD Wait To Be Served!

Caseload Forecast DDA Services!



Invest in Quality Community Supports and Services for Children and Adults with IDD to Reduce Use of Crisis Services

Problem:

The long-term care system in Washington State is ranked as one of the best in the country. Not so for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD): Washington State ranks 37th in the country for fiscal effort for services for individuals with IDD, according to the 2017 State of the State Report.

Staff turnover is close to 50% in residential supported living services, and likely higher since the pandemic. The DD Ombuds sees a pattern of both children and adults with identified behavioral supports needs who are unable to access services to stay in their own home or at home with a parent. The DD Ombuds also sees a pattern that people currently in crisis don't have service plans that meet the minimum requirements to prevent crisis.

Proposals:

- a. Mandate caseload forecasting for all DDA community supports and services.
- b. Increase direct service workers wages in supported living to reduce turnover and increase retention of well-trained staff.
- c. Modify RCW 74.34 to clarify definitions, give authority to APS to share information with law enforcement and some state agencies, clarify APS authority to share information with DD Ombuds, and changes to the registry to include a way for some people to have their names removed from the registry. (DSHS request legislation, [SSB 5338](#).)
- d. Continue focus on the needs of the 15,000+ clients DDA has identified who asked for services but are waiting (no paid services caseload) by increasing availability of waiver services. Identify children and youth on the no paid services caseload, under the age of 21 and on Medicaid and determine if there are unmet needs and whether those can be met under the state Medicaid plan through EPSDT.
- e. Ensure that DDA and contracted support providers have more training in developing individual and person-centered service plans that meet state and federal requirements to prevent crisis.
- f. Make changes to the vulnerable adult abuse registry to include a way for some people to have their names removed from the registry. People with disabilities and their families have worked on this issue in order to increase the pool of qualified caregivers.
- g. Increase in the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) for people living in medical institutions and in residential settings. People in these settings rely on the PNA to buy basic supplies and go on outings in the community. An increase would allow people to have money to spend to live a meaningful life and be a part of the community.



For more information contact:

Betty Schwieterman, State DD Ombuds betty@ddombuds.org or
833.727.8900 ext. 209

Noah Seidel, Regional DD Ombuds noah@ddombuds.org or
833.727.8900 ext. 116

