

**COLLABORATIVE WORKING GROUP FOR ADULT DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
ASSESSMENT AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION: RECOMMENDATION
MAY 14, 2015**

The Collaborative Working Group (CWG) for Adult Developmental Disabilities met on May 14, 2015 in Boise, Idaho and generated the following proposal for the state's consideration respective to selecting an Assessment and Resource Allocation process for Idaho adults with development disabilities. CWG has been reviewing other states' systems and a variety of assessment tools, including the SIB-R, SIS and InterRAI, over the past several years. This spring their work dovetailed with that of a DHW-convened project team who also reviewed tools and generated four different options for consideration by DHW administration.

More information about the CWG, its membership, principles, processes, and its recommendations can be found in its Annual Report at the following link:

<http://icdd.idaho.gov/pdf/Idaho%20CWG%20Report%20to%202015%20Legislature.pdf>

The discussion CWG pursued is specific to an assessment process that produces an allocated budget to meet individual needs. This recommendation specifically does not address an assessment process that determines DD program eligibility.

RECOMMENDATION

Fundamentally, the CWG proposes that *any needs assessment process* selected for Idaho is strengths based, specifically drives the allocation process—building budgets based on actual needs rather than other factors—and assumes employment is a priority for adults with developmental disabilities.

Any assessment and resource allocation process selected by the state should feature the following characteristics:

1. The process must be transparent, easily understood, and 'welcoming' to the adults undertaking them;
2. The process specifically utilizes a person-centered planning approach as defined by CMS, recognizing each individual is unique in their needs and ensuring each plan is specifically responsive to individual conditions;
3. The process will be comprehensive in its definition of needs across all life areas, including but not limited to the individual's situation respective to:
 - Health and Medical needs
 - Mental/Behavioral Health needs
 - Independent living skills
 - Safety
 - Employment
 - Community Integration
4. Based on the individual needs generated through a person-centered approach, the process will identify the hours of support required to meet those needs and the qualifications of the personnel required to provide them;
5. With this deliverable, the allocation process will generate a budget that is fair and equitable, appropriately meeting the individual's current needs and specifically featuring the flexibility to respond to changing needs.

Ultimately, the process should serve as a pathway to help people integrate in their respective communities.

This proposal recognizes all involved parties must implement the person-center-planning process with integrity, and parties must include the active engagement of the participant and his/her best advocate. All must work toward effectively meeting needs—and not trying to merely pull down the most money or support those needs as inexpensively as possible. The approach will likely require additional training for those involved.

ADDRESSING CHALLENGES

CWG recognizes this approach is commonly called a “retrospective planning” approach – where planning occurs based on the individual’s current reality and not necessarily what came before. CWG recognizes the approach causes some specific challenges for the Division of Medicaid, and seeks to help the Division address the following responsibilities:

- How to safeguard against exploitation and abuse
- Project the future year’s number of users and cost of services to CMS
- Project the future year’s number of users and cost of services to the state Legislature
- Ensure the state does not get itself in a situation where the allocated budgets exceed available funding.

CWG proposes a number of strategies to help address said challenges, some of which are process and others content oriented. A subcommittee of the CWG will meet with Division of Medicaid personnel in the very near future to follow-up on some of these recommendations. Meanwhile, CWG submits the following suggestions for the state’s consideration.

Process Proposal:

Having developed an accurate Person Centered Plan, CWG proposes the following process elements:

1. Have an independent assessor review the support plan and its justification. It is anticipated the vast majority of the plans would fall in an expected range.
2. In the event of disputes and plans falling outside the expected range, DHW care managers will review and resolve
3. DHW care managers will approve, or not, the plans
4. A review and appeal process can be utilized in the event of further dispute

The approach brings control to the process and does, in fact, utilize a ‘soft cap’ for implementation.

Other Process Suggestions:

- The support plan will articulate a justification for the hours and qualifications identified
- To reduce a potential inclination to inflame a budget, the plan can be outcome oriented by blocks of hours

Suggestions for Addressing Reporting Requirements:

1. Look at how supported employment was implemented to assist with avoiding exploitation of funding
2. Implement a pilot project in up to 2 regions to assess planning and budget implementation usage (R3 and Frontier)

3. Quantify the percentage of adults who are maxing out their KW budgets – this would help give a budget starting point; also look at the percentage and resources remaining from those who are not utilizing their entire budgets
4. Assess cost of people in supported employment vs. those not working
5. Ensure people have their needs met instead of utilizing all available services

CWG appreciates the Department's consideration of this proposal, and commits to continuing to work collaboratively with the Department to address challenges associated with its implementation.