

TIMOTHY DROWNE's

Testimony for Thursday 02/19/15

Hello. Co-Chairs Bates and Nathanson and other members of the committee, my name is Timothy Drowne and I am a Bilingual Service Coordinator for Multnomah County Developmental Disability Services. I have managed the cases of more than 60 of our clients and their families for just over three years now. I started working in December of 2011 before the arrival of the Kplan, and since then the scope of work and my daily duties have changed substantially. For the first year I assisted families in gathering resources from the community and helped those children that go into crisis with short-term and long-term diversion funding. I also wrote service plans using Family Support funding along with Medicaid funding through the State Planned Personal Care program.

Since the start of the K-plan roughly two years ago, the nature of the work I do in Multnomah County has changed drastically. Namely, the amount of administrative duties and paperwork has more than doubled and at the same time we are now providing ongoing paid services to the majority of the families on our case load which is a great accomplishment.

In the past our day was structured and performance measured by the number of contacts or services we could perform in a month, and that requirement has not changed. However, since the K-plan began, the amount of time we have to directly serve the families has been reduced due to the large number of administrative tasks that we have been assigned. This increased workload has been compounded by the requirement to monitor more than twice the number of funded plans with monthly telephone calls and quarterly home visits. While the influx of funding through the K-plan has increased our ability to provide services for our clients, the implementation and administration of this new program has impeded our ability to sustain and increase the number of services and benefits that we provide. Serving more clients takes more human resources and much of our time is now spent doing new tasks such as the 25 page Children's Need Assessment (CNA), the Level of Care (LOC) assessment, writing detailed service plans (ASP), preparing new employee paperwork and processing bimonthly time sheets, traveling to the home of our clients for face to face monitoring visits, and much much more. The time we spend administering the K-plan takes away from the time we have to coordinate services for our clients. Further, this expanded work load has come with no change in current staffing levels, and it is nearly impossible for us to get the work done within the State and Federal time lines.

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For this reason we urge you to fund developmental disabilities at the level reflected in House Bill 2056 at 95% for the workload model. This will help reduce our workload, but better serve our clients.

Thanks you for the opportunity to address this group, and I will now turn it over to the next participant.