



Date: March 24, 2017
TO: Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Human Services
RE: SB 5526, relating to DHS budget for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Services

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Steiner Hayward and Representative Rayfield and Members of the Committee:

Lane County Developmental Disabilities Services provides support to approximately 2000 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This includes an array of services for vulnerable and valuable members of our community. All of these individuals receive case management. Case management services include assessment of support needs, coordination of services, information about community resources, referrals to support providers, and ongoing monitoring of health and safety. We also provide protective services and abuse investigations.

In 2016 our intake and eligibility unit completed 400 eligibility determinations. 309 of those were individuals who were determined to be eligible for case management services. This is an increase of 12%, equivalent to six new caseloads in one calendar year. The Community Developmental Disabilities Programs (CDDP's) are the state's designee to provide these crucial services to this marginalized population. The Affordable Care Act has expanded the opportunities for people to receive appropriate supports, many for the first time. However, as with any new program there have been increases in documentation and accountability that have impacted workload and pressure. Case management services are currently funded at only 95% of the workload model. This is an effective and efficient way to assure quality supports to our families, friends, neighbors and community members that experience intellectual and developmental disabilities. We are writing to request continued support of the current service level funding for CDDPs.

Regional Programs offer critical services locally and statewide including crisis diversion services, foster care certification, and training. These services allow individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities find housing, supports to be successful citizens and have well trained staff. We are writing to ask for continued funding of the state Regional programs.



Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) are the backbone of residential and vocational programs which provide direct care and support to the folks we serve. The DHS budget includes a policy option package #105, which would ensure adequate DSP wages that are above minimum wage. These key workers need to be paid a livable wage in order to ensure a stable workforce and provide quality supports to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We are asking that you support this policy option package and support higher wages for direct support professionals.

Yours Truly,

Andrea Muzikant

Program Manager

Lane County Developmental Disabilities Services