

SB 274 SUMMARY

Changes the age of eligibility for case management from Support Services Brokerages from 18 to 14 years.

TRAJECTORY

We are aiming to:

- remove barriers to stakeholder decision-making and support positive change.
- open choice and service options for people age 14-17.
- create a smoother and more supported Turning 18 transition period for people with IDD.

We are trying to avoid:

- delays in system design decisions related to statute updates.
- setting our small businesses up for failure by trying to change too much, too fast. What we value, and what people in our services value, is our ability to specialize in community-based supports and resources—we do not wish to jeopardize that.

FAQ

Q: What is the purpose of this bill?

A: We believe that this design makes more sense for people for a variety of reasons:

- The “Turning 18” timeframe is already fraught for people with IDD and their families. Securing testing and other documentation for adult DD eligibility, switching doctors from pediatric to adult, housing decisions, graduation, college, high school transition programs, qualifying for social security and Medicaid benefits, etc. No one going through all that wants to be faced with one more choice: to stay with your current case management entity,

or switch to a new one? It's not a smart time to introduce that option.

- The start of high school is a pivot point when we start to consider what our adult lives will look like. As a young person begins to dream and set goals, it makes sense to have your Brokerage Personal Agent there from the start, to develop rapport and have a deep understanding of what you want for your life.
- You want stability and support during the Turning 18 efforts. It makes sense to offer choice earlier, so that the Personal Agent can help a person more smoothly navigate the transition period into adulthood.

Q: What's the difference between you and the CDDPs?

A: Brokerages have exclusively served adults living in their own or family homes for 18 years. We specialize in community-based case management, where people are supported wherever they live, and there are no licensed residential providers responsible for 24/7 care. We have been charged from the start with being a qualitatively different alternative to traditional case management: developing community resources and relationships that enhance the lives of people with IDD living all over Oregon.

Q: Does this mean people have to leave the county?

A: No, this would add the option to receive Brokerage case management services earlier. People will still have the option to stay with their CDDPs for case management should they so choose.

Q: Does this mean you'll be serving all service types 14 and up?

A: No, this bill will not change the language in statute about who we serve, except to change the eligible starting age from 18 to 14.

Q: Why 14?

A: The age of 14 marks the entry into the high school, which is a pivotal time when people start to develop their identities, and their lives outside the family unit. Though still very much rooted in family life, people begin to look to adulthood, and make plans. It makes sense to us to engage at this point, to support that journey. It's also a time when Employment Teams gather, and it makes sense to join that work early to support success from start to finish.

Starting at age 14 also allows us to develop rapport and do some of the goal-making along with people. We hope that starting at 14 will help to provide continuity during the difficult Turning-18 transition period; we want to help people manage this transition, rather than picking up after it is underway, or completed.

Q: Does this have support from the stakeholder community?

A: We have been talking about expanding the age range for Brokerage services for years, and the encouragement of family and children's service advocates is a big part of what has spurred us to act. As we have begun to share the specifics of this concept, the Family Networks, children's service providers, advocates, and CDDPs we have spoken with have approved the idea. We will continue to work with local CDDPs to craft an implementation plan that is amenable to everyone; we're committed to adding value to the system with this change, not disruption.

Q: Are all the Brokerages going to serve kids?

A: Brokerages statewide have made a commitment to explore and work to implement this change in their organizations. Most have oversight boards of directors who will have the final say in how and when each Brokerage agency makes this change to services. Our desire is to have a well-planned and thoughtful transition into serving people 14-17.

Q: Are you ready to serve kids now?

A: We will be ready when the time comes. Our desire is to have a well-planned and thoughtful transition into serving people 14-17. We anticipate the need to train and hire new staff to effect this change. Each organization may have a slightly different structure, depending on what the need looks like in their local region.