



## DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY SERVICES

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Date: March 2, 2023

To: Joint Subcommittee on Human Services

From: Amanda Stephens, Health Services Manager, Polk County Health Services

RE: Support Full Funding for I/DD Case Managers!

Co-Chair Campos, Co-Chair Valderrama, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Amanda Stephens and I represent Polk County Developmental Disabilities Services. As a Case Management Entity for people who experience Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, it is our mission to guide individuals in their choice of supports that promote well-being, independence and integration. We believe in helping individuals lead fulfilling lives and reach their potential. As a Community Developmental Disability Program (CDDP), we are the point of access to services and support for people in Polk County.

As a contracted CDDP, our appropriation is built into the ODHS budget. Over the course of the past few biennia, the Legislature has made meaningful strides towards fully funding this budget, allowing us to provide more effective services to those in need. But, we have not reached full funding for our budget in several years. This has resulted in high turnover and caseloads in our profession, which is not beneficial for the person receiving services or the local CDDP.

As a system we strive to provide the best services possible but when case management is not fully funded we are not able to meet every competing need. We are honored to be a lifeline in people's lives. We provide protective services when one of our vulnerable adults is at risk of abuse. We provide people with community resources and referrals for other services including but not limited to employment services, in-home provider agencies, residential providers, mental health services, local food banks, housing resources, etc. We assess people's support needs and reassess as things change. We develop people's Individual Support Plans and authorize their services. We monitor those services to ensure they are being effective and that they are the best use of the available funds. We help people plan for transitions in their lives, and we advocate for the person we support to ensure that they are able to live the life that they want and that their rights are being respected. We help walk people through their hardest days and their most joyous ones too. We are privileged to get to work for one of our most vulnerable populations. When we are not fully funded case managers often have to choose highest priority tasks on a day to day basis. This growth in case sizes, when not followed by the needed funding, can have negative impacts on those we serves.

In their Agency Request Budget (ARB), ODHS included a Policy Option Package to fully fund these programs, recognizing the important role that CDDPs play in local communities. While this POP was not included in the Governor's Budget, full funding for these programs remains critical. Full funding will allow us to better serve those with an Intellectual or Developmental Disability (I/DD).

We urge you to fully fund the Case Management Entities!



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Sincerely,

Amanda Stephens