STATE OF CONNECTICUT
GOVERNOR
M. JODI RELL

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Commissioner Michael P. Starkowski

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES
Commissioner Peter H. O'Meara

December 8, 2010

Good Afternoon Senators Harp and Doyle, Representatives Geragosian and Walker and members of the Appropriations and Human Services Committees. My name is Michael Starkowski. I am Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS). I am pleased to be here this morning with my colleague Peter O'Meara, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Developmental Services (DDS).

Under the provisions of Section 17b-8 of our general statutes, Commissioner O'Meara and I seek your support for a third ***Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver for People with Intellectual Disabilities***. This new "Employment and Day Supports Waiver" will operate in tandem with two existing DDS Waivers and will serve as the waiver program alternative designed to support individuals who live with family or in their own homes and have a strong natural support system.

Specifically, this waiver application includes the necessary services to support (1) children under the age of twenty-one who have complex medical needs and who would otherwise require institutional placement and (2) individuals over the age of eighteen who require career development, supported employment or community based day supports, respite or behavioral supports to remain in their own or their family home.

The purpose of this new waiver will be to continue Connecticut's move toward increasing individual choice, self-direction and control over resources necessary for individuals to live independently or in their family home. DDS is projecting net revenue for State Fiscal Years 2012 and 2013 to be $2.1 million and $3.1 million respectively. There will be no increased cost for the state to provide these waiver services as the individuals are already receiving state funded day services or will be future school graduates who are regularly funded through the state budget process. Funding for these services has been included in our proposed current services budget for fiscal years 2012 and 2013.

I thank you in advance for your continued support of the Department of Social Services and the Department of Developmental Services in our efforts to advance best practices in the delivery and management of services on behalf of our citizens with intellectual disabilities.

At this time, I am pleased to introduce Commissioner O'Meara who will provide additional background on the waiver and review its main features.

Good afternoon and thank you for this opportunity to appear with Commissioner Starkowski in support of our waiver request. We have provided a summary of the key features of the new waiver which I am happy to summarize for you at this time.

Eligibility

- Individuals who are eligible for Medicaid.
- Individuals over three years of age with a diagnosis of mental retardation as defined by CGS, Sec 1-1g. Also included are those individuals determined eligible for DDS services as a result of a hearing conducted by DDS according to the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act or administrative determination of the Commissioner of Developmental Services.
- Individuals who are part of the Developmental Disability target group limited to individuals over the age of 18 who have a developmental disability who currently reside in general Nursing Facilities, but who have been shown as a result of the Pre-Admission Screening and Annual Resident Review process mandated by P.L. 100-203 to require active treatment at the level of an *"Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded" (ICF/MR).*

Benefits

- This waiver includes traditional service delivery and participant-directed options including 'employer of record' and 'agency with choice' models and establishes the "Connecticut Level of Need Assessment and Risk Screening Tool" as the method to determine that an individual meets the Level of Care criterion for enrollment in the waiver.
- The maximum annual funding allocation for individuals in this waiver is $28,000.
- Service options include:
  - Adult Day Health
  - Community Based Day Support Options
  - Respite
  - Supported Employment
  - Independent Support Broker
  - Behavioral Support Services
  - Individual Goods and Services
  - Individualized Day Support
  - Interpreter
  - Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies
  - Transportation

Administration & Operation of Waiver

DSS is the single state Medicaid agency responsible for oversight of the DDS waivers. DDS is the operating authority through an executed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two state departments. DDS operates the waivers as a state operated system with state employees delivering targeted case management services and operational functions carried out either through the DDS central office or through one of three DDS regional offices. Services are delivered through an array of private service providers through contracts or through a fee-for-service system and through the use of consumer direction with waiver participants serving as the employer of record; or through the selection of an Agency with Choice model. DDS utilizes fiscal intermediary organizations to support participants who choose consumer direction and offers support brokers as part of expanded DDS case management services or through the waiver.

Comparison of DDS Waivers

The Individual and Family Support waiver was approved February 1, 2008 and the Comprehensive Supports waiver on October 1, 2008. Both waivers were approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for a period of five years.

The Individual and Family Support (IFS) waiver provides flexible and necessary supports and services for children and adults eligible for services through the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) who live in a family home or one's own home to live safe and productive lives; to support and encourage consumer-direction; to maximize choice, control and efficient use of state and federal resources; and to provide a mechanism to serve an increased number of individuals through individualized and non-licensed service options such as personal support, adult companion, respite and individualized day supports. This waiver is capped at $58,000 annually which is indexed to reflect any cost increases approved by the Legislature through budget appropriations.

The Comprehensive Support Waiver provides the necessary services to support individuals who reside in licensed settings, or who reside in a personal home and require a comprehensive array of services. This waiver will operate in tandem with the IFS waiver. This waiver provides for a broader array of supports so that individuals with more comprehensive needs, particularly behavioral or medical, can also choose a personalized package of supports necessary to remain in their own or their family home. The costs for the individuals served on this waiver are aggregated so that although an individual may have very high cost support needs, the average per person cost remains below the ICF/MR rate.

The Employment and Day Supports waiver, before you today, is designed to support individuals who live with family or in their own homes and have a strong natural support system. This includes children under the age of 21 with complex medical needs who would otherwise require institutional placement and individuals over the age of 18 who require career development, supported employment or community based day supports, respite, and/or behavioral supports to remain in their own or their family home. If approved by your committees, the waiver will be sent to CMS for its review and approval. It is anticipated that the approval process will be completed on or about April 1, 2011. We thank you for this opportunity to come before you today and we would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.