

December 16, 2011

To: Members -Appropriations Committee

From: Terry Edelstein, President/CEO
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Re: Individual and Family Support Waiver amendments: comments for 12-16-11 public hearing

Thank you for accepting these comments for the December 16, 2011 Public Hearing.

We submitted these same comments directly to DDS after these amendments were posted in the CLJ.

The Connecticut Community Providers Association (CCPA) is a trade association that represents organizations providing services and supports for people with disabilities and significant challenges including children and adults with substance use disorders, mental illness, developmental, and physical disabilities. We have a large and active Developmental Disabilities Division.

We have reviewed the proposed amendments to the C.G.A 17b-8(c) statute and hope that you will consider the following comments.

1.

Reduce the number of slots targeted for high school graduates.

Comment: It is of our understanding that the slots for high school graduates will not be reduced but instead will be adjusted from the Individual Family Support Waiver and be included in the Comprehensive Waiver.

As proposed, this amendment to the waiver is misleading by the fact that there will not be an actual number of slots reduced for high school graduates just an adjustment made to the IFS waiver.

Any reduction to the slots for high school graduates is of concern because this is a population that is in need of services funded by the Department of Development Disabilities.

2.

Reduce the number of slots in years 3, 4, and 5 to more closely match the actual number of enrolled participants.

Comment: It would seem that from this proposed amendment to the Individual and Family Support Waiver that the number of total slots in the Department of Developmental Services' system will be reduced in years 3-5.

It is our understanding that the total number of slots for participants will decrease from the IFS waiver but will be adjusted for in the Comprehensive waiver leaving the same amount of slots available.

It would be very helpful if DDS could provide the numbers that will be adjusted for in the Comprehensive Waiver to fully understand the transition of the participants through each waiver. We look forward to receiving this information.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on these proposed amendments to the Individual and Family Support Waiver.