



*Testimony before the Appropriations and Human Services Committees  
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Good morning, Senators Harp and Musto, and Representatives Tercyak, and Walker, and members of the Human Services and Appropriations Committees. My name is Pam Giannini and I am the Director of the Bureau of Aging, Community & Social Work Services. With me today is Dorian Long, program manager for the Social Work Services Unit. I am here before you today to seek your approval of a renewal application to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), for the Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Medicaid Waiver.

The current application, as authorized under section 1915(c) of the Social Security Act, expires on December 31, 2011; therefore, a renewal must be submitted. The goal of this renewal is to continue to support program participants who receive needed services to live in the community. The ABI waiver is currently at capacity and, therefore, proposed changes to the ABI Waiver include an increase in the number of slots allowed under the ABI Waiver to accommodate transitions from Money Follows the Person. We are also seeking to modify the ABI Waiver service package to support service flexibility in group supports.

Since 1999, Connecticut's ABI Waiver has been providing supports to individuals with brain injury in the community. Without these services, these participants would otherwise be at risk of institutionalization.

I'd like to take this opportunity to provide you with a brief overview of the ABI Waiver.

**Program Description**

The ABI Waiver provides services and supports to persons who have experienced an accident or health event that resulted in damage to the brain. Eligible clients are either at risk of institutionalization or currently living in an institution. Participants must have monthly income that does not exceed \$2,022 per month and assets less than \$1,600.

The waiver employs the principles of person-centered planning to build an adequate and appropriate plan of care for the support and care in the community. Supports include Medicaid State Plan services, as well as those targeted to persons with brain injury such as independent living skills training and cognitive behavioral interventions.

A fact sheet that provides greater detail about the program is attached.

## **Proposed Changes**

### **MFP Transitions**

The proposed changes in this renewal would increase and reserve the number of slots available by 30 to accommodate consumers transitioning from the legislatively approved Money Follows the Person (MFP) program to the ABI Waiver, during 2012. This capacity expansion was assured to CMS with the submission of Connecticut's MFP Demonstration Operating Protocol. Connecticut has been successful in its efforts to provide community living opportunities to persons affected by brain injury. MFP has exceeded its projections for the ABI Waiver population and with other target populations as well.

### **ABI Group Day Supports**

Service participants receive individualized supports, but have reported a desire to have access to skill acquisition in more flexible ways. This includes more group-oriented activities. Group Day Support services is a proposed new service designed to lead to the acquisition, improvement and/or retention of skills and abilities to prepare an individual for work and/or community participation, or support meaningful socialization, leisure and retirement activities. This service is provided by a qualified provider in a community-based setting. This provides an opportunity to deliver a more cost-effective service while supporting the program flexibility desired by participants.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. I would be happy to answer any questions from the committees.