



The Connecticut Council for Persons with Disabilities

(An Advisory Council to the Connecticut Department of Social Services Mandated by Sec. 17b-606(b) of the Conn. General Statutes)

Testimony of Gary E Waterhouse, Chair
CT Council for Persons with Disabilities
September 27, 2011
Joint Public Hearing of the
Appropriations & Human Services Committees

MEDICAID WAIVER RENEWAL APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW

Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Waiver Renewal 369 slots & 35 MFP only slots

Katie Beckett Waiver Renewal 200 slots (current funding only supports 180 slots)

In October 2010, DSS asked the Human Services and Appropriations committees to approve an **AMENDMENT TO THE ABI WAIVER**. The amendment asked the federal Medicaid agency, retroactive to January 1, 2010, to (1) increase the total number of slots from 369 to 404 and (2) allow these 35 to be reserved for people (*in nursing facilities*) transitioning off the demonstration grant-funded portion of MFP.

On January 28, 2011, Office of Legislative Research report 2011-R-0017 stated that there were **fifty (50)** people on the ABI waiting list for services. The average wait on the ABI list was listed as two years. In July 2011, DSS reported **sixty-five (65)** people on the ABI waiting list, a **77% increase**.

The inference is that people with Acquired Brain Injuries **must enter** a nursing facility for 90 days to be eligible for Medicaid Services via the Money Follows the Person program.

The Katie Beckett Waiver, also known as the Deeming Waiver or the 2176 Model Waiver, enables severely disabled individuals to be cared for at home and be eligible for Medicaid based on the individual's income and assets. Without this waiver, the income and assets of legally liable relatives (parent or spouse) are counted when the disabled person is cared for at home. Enrollment capacity is 200 (current funding only supports 180 slots). There is a long waiting list for this program; Cathy Bruni, Manager, Alternative Care Unit, DSS and Dr. Mark Schaefer, Director, Medical Care Administration, DSS, testified before the joint committees on September 1st that there is a **waiting list of 428 consumers** and that the average waits on the list are five (5) years.

The Katie Beckett Waiver program has a **238% short fall** in program capacity. Children and families who are waiting for up to five (5) years need hope. In this 5 year ABI waiver renewal please make available a few more slots each year that **do not require institutionalization**.