

Human Services Committee/Human  
Services Appropriations Committee  
Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT.

March 27, 2014

RE: ABI/TBI Medicaid Waiver II

Attention: Human Services Committee & Human Services Appropriations Committee

Please accept this document as my written testimony. I am writing on behalf of the 125+ clients and families I serve on the ABI/TBI Medicaid Waiver. We request that you not pass Waiver II for the following reasons:

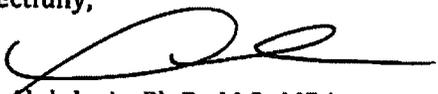
1. You will allow those with a dual diagnosis of TBI and Mental Health to pass other individuals on the wait list. Thereby creating a preferential system based on cost, which is likely to result in everyone attempting to obtain a mental health diagnosis in an attempt to hasten access to the program.
2. Waiver II has a cost capitalization of 150%, which will prevent individuals from nursing homes from developing safe and effective programs thereby making the state a target for a Class Action Lawsuit.
3. Individuals without a dual diagnosis of mental health will be unable to access ABI Waiver services as they will be bypassed by those with the preferred diagnosis on an ongoing basis.

Alternatives to the current proposal are as follows:

1. Expand and improve the existing waiver by adding all clients currently on the wait-list. The savings garnered from dual diagnosis clients currently at cost to the Connecticut tax payer will more than pay for clients at other levels.
2. Department of Social Services (DSS) writes a waiver specifically for those with a dual diagnosis of mental health and TBI while allowing the current waiver to continue to add new participants.

It is my firm belief that DSS can be far more thoughtful, inclusive, and creative with their proposal. We request that you send this document back to the department with an expectation of excellence. There has been a tremendous amount of controversy regarding this proposal. I do not believe that there is neither a member of DSS nor an informed member of the committees that would consider this proposal thoughtful, inclusive, or creative. This is not an attempt to embarrass DSS, this is simply a request to ask them to demonstrate excellence! The survivors and our citizens deserve better!

Respectfully,

  
Tariq Abdulaziz, Ph.D., M.S., MBA