



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
GOVERNOR
Dannel P. Malloy**

**Commissioner Roderick L. Bremby
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**Commissioner Terrence W. Macy, Ph.D.
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

**TESTIMONY OF THE
DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES
TO THE APPROPRIATIONS AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEES
October 23, 2012**

Good morning, Senators Harp and Musto, Representatives Walker and Tercyak and members of the Appropriations and Human Services Committees. My name is Roderick Bremby and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services. I am pleased to be here this morning with Commissioner Terrence Macy of the Department of Developmental Services. Under the provisions of Section 17b-8 of our general statutes, we are here to seek your support for the renewal of the Department of Developmental Services Individual and Family Support (IFS) waiver, which expires on January 31, 2013.

Waiver Description

The Individual and Family Support (IFS) waiver has operated since February 2005, targeting persons with intellectual disabilities in need of an institutional level of care. The goals of the Individual and Family Support waiver are 1) to provide flexible and necessary supports and services for children and adults who are eligible for services through DDS and who live in a family home or their own home in order to live safe and productive lives; 2) to support and encourage consumer-direction to maximize choice, control and efficient use of state and federal resources; and 3) to provide a mechanism to serve an increased number of consumers through individualized and non-licensed service options such as personal support, adult companion, respite and individualized day supports.

Descriptions of Proposed Modifications to the Waiver

This renewal application includes the following changes which are explained in greater detail below:

- Redefines services formerly classified as Group Day Supports to Prevocational Services, based upon guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS);
- Separates Supported Employment into Individualized Supported Employment and Group Supported Employment, as recommended by CMS;
- Redefines Adult Companion as Companion Supports to increase flexibility for families;

- Increases the provider qualifications for Parenting Support;
- Increases the maximum annual funding allocation for individuals in this waiver from \$58,000 to \$59,000 in anticipation of the 1% COLA approved for private providers beginning in January 2013.

Group Day Supports Redefined as Prevocational Services:

Currently, these services are combined in Group Day Supports. The redefinition reflects the national trend towards integrated community employment and is based upon guidance from CMS, as referenced in the September 16, 2011, Center for Medicaid, CHIP and Survey & Certification (CMCS) Informational Bulletin.

Prevocational Services provide learning and work experiences, including volunteer work, which can increase and strengthen the skills necessary and contribute to paid employment. Each participant will have an individual plan that reflects their specific goals/outcomes towards integrated employment.

Supported Employment Separated into Individual Employment and Group Employment Supports:

Individual Supported Employment consists of ongoing supports that enable participants, for whom competitive employment at or above the minimum wage is likely, with some ongoing supports the participant will need to perform in a regular work setting. Individual Supported employment may include assisting the participant with vocational assessments, career planning and locating a job.

Group Supported Employment consists of ongoing supports that enable participants for whom competitive employment may be unattainable outside of a structured work environment. Participants may be on the path to individual supported employment but need supports to perform in a regular work setting. These groups generally are composed of eight or fewer participants.

Adult Companion Changed to Companion Supports:

This change provides participants and their families a wider range of and more flexible services. Companion Supports may include assistance with meals and basic activities of daily living incidental to the support and supervision of the participant. This service is provided to carry out personal outcomes identified in the individual plan that supports a participant to successfully live in his or her own home. These supports can be furnished on a short-term basis because of the absence or need for relief of those persons normally providing the care.

Qualification requirements Increased for Parenting Support:

In addition to existing qualifications for parenting support professionals, the waiver renewal proposes to add the following criteria: 1) A Bachelor's degree in a field of study related to supporting people with disabilities (e.g. social service, education, psychology, or rehabilitation); and 2) Increasing from five to seven years the work experience required. This service assists individuals with intellectual disabilities who are or will be parents in developing appropriate parenting skills.

Financial cap Increased from \$58,000 to \$59,000:

This increase is due to the 1% COLA for private providers, beginning January 1, 2013. Currently, the average cost per IFS Waiver participant is approximately \$25,000.

We appreciate your positive consideration of this waiver renewal application to continue these vital services. We would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.