

Blueprint for System Redesign in Illinois: Summary

An Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities report Prepared by Human Services Research Institute

Summary prepared by the Campaign for Real Choice in Illinois

Introduction

Illinois maintains a distinct bias toward large facilities. Due to growing waitlists, under-funding, and changing attitudes and expectations, the state is faced with the challenge of providing services in a more efficient and effective manner. In order to do so, Illinois must change its current fiscal and policy trends.

Blueprint for System Redesign in Illinois proposes an overhaul of the current support system serving people with developmental disabilities. The Blueprint:

- Identifies key issues in need of change and offers an action plan that could be realistically executed by the state over a seven-year period.
- Provides a feasible and well-thought-out plan to strengthen Illinois' community services system by adequately funding services, expanding community-based supports in place of existing state run institutions, improving certain infrastructures and implementing individual budget allocation practices.
- Represents the way forward toward freedom for thousands of people with developmental disabilities in Illinois.

Standards for a Well Designed System

There are seven fundamental standards, accepted nationwide, that define well designed systems. Illinois should use these standards to gauge the publicly funded services it offers to support people with developmental disabilities.

The standards are:

1. Reasonable promptness – people should be able to get services on time
2. Most integrated setting - people should be included in the community
3. Person-centered services – services should be tailored to individuals
4. Valued outcomes of services – people should be able to reach their goals and dreams

5. Service access – people should have one way to get into the system
6. Quality and oversight – people should be able to trust that the system will do a good job
7. Economy and efficiency – the system should spend its money wisely

Six Action Areas and 16 Action Steps

In order to meet these standards in Illinois, the state will need to significantly alter both the way it offers its services as well as the actual services that are offered. The following action steps outline the major changes the state should implement in order to move forward in supporting people with developmental disabilities with individualized, effective services.

Action Area 1: Support people in the most integrated setting possible

- *Action Step #1:* Reduce the number of people living in State Operated Developmental Centers (SODCs) from 2,563 to 1,014 by 2014. Five of the nine SODCs in Illinois should be closed.
- *Action Step #2:* Enact the “Money Follows the Person” legislation.
- *Action Step #3:* Adopt policies and offer financial incentives to encourage private institutions (ICFs/DD) to downsize.
- *Action Step #4:* Ban the opening of homes that serve more than 6 people.

Action Area 2: Strengthen community services

- *Action Step # 5:* Reduce community staff turnover by boosting funding for community workers.
- *Action Step # 6:* Help the community support people with complex medical and behavior issues.
- *Action Step #7:* Strengthen oversight of community services system.

Action Area 3: Expand community capacity

- *Action Step #8:* Secure more federal funding to expand the community system to serve an additional 2,316 people each year between 2009 and 2014.
- *Action Step #9:* Expand home- based services so people can be supported in their own home.

Action Area 4: Redesign service coordination and single point of entry

- *Action Step #10:* Create a well- designed service planning system.
- *Action Step #11:* Create one “gateway” for services.

Action Area 5: Redesign services and funding

- *Action Step #12:* Offer flexible, truly person- centered services.
- *Action Step #13:* Reset rates based on data and facts.

- *Action Step #14:* Let people with developmental disabilities direct their own services.
- *Action Step #15:* Create services that help people achieve their goals and dreams.

Action Area 6: Measure performance and quality improvement

- *Action Step #16:* Measure and improve system quality and performance.

Conclusion

The *Blueprint* tells the state *how* to change. It is all about the action that is needed to move this state forward. It details how Illinois can reshape its services to allow people with developmental disabilities the freedom and choice to live the lives they choose. The *Blueprint* provides the way. Now the question becomes – do our state’s public officials have the *will* to implement it?