



PRESS RELEASE

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A Call To Action

In recent months, we've been discussing the State of Indiana's proposed Medicaid Waiver funding changes for service for people with developmental disabilities. We stand firm in advocating to eliminate the state's proposed twelve month time limit on Pre-Vocational and the eighteen month time limit on Supported Employment services.

The timeline for the State of Indiana to respond to an alternative proposal has expired and we are now faced with perhaps the greatest challenge our agency has ever known.

Here are the changes that will occur if the State moves forward:

1. Any person whose workshop service is paid for by Medicaid Waiver will lose that funding over the course of the next 12-24 months.
2. Any person who is receiving Supported Employment services will lose funding over the course of the next 18-24 months.

It is critical that parents, guardians, staff members and advocates contact legislators and state officials to begin the campaign to eliminate these time limits. A show of strength and unity is crucial.

The Arc of Indiana and the Indiana Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (INARF) developed the alternative proposal I mentioned above. This proposal meets federal requirements, is similar to successful programs operated in other states, and saves the State of Indiana a modest amount of money. Through the efforts of these two organizations, rehabilitation programs across Indiana have sought to make a positive contribution to working through the reduction in state revenues while continuing to offer services and supports to those with intellectual disabilities. **We have sought a positive partnership with the State of Indiana, and they have failed to respond in kind.**

A list of people who can effect change are listed below. I cannot stress enough how important it is for us to maintain both programs, each of which has the broad support of families and clients.

Thank you for taking the time to advocate for programs for people with developmental disabilities. Their futures depend on the outcome of this legislation. You can play a part in making sure that future is one of progress and purpose.

Sincerely,

Don Weikle, Executive Director
Peak Community Services
574-753-4104, ext. 125

Please contact the following people personally or via e-mail.

Governor Mitch Daniels

Phone: 317-232-4567

Mail: Office of the Governor
Statehouse
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2797

E-Mail: Go to www.in.gov then go to the Governor's page and complete the form.

Peter Bisbecos, Director of the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services
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317-232-1147

| <u>Representative or Senator</u> | <u>Indianapolis Office</u> | <u>E-Mail</u> |
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| <u>Rep. Rich McClain, District 24</u> | 317-232-9648 | H24@IN.gov |
| <u>Rep. Thomas Dermody, District 20</u> | 317-232-9793 | HD20@IN.gov |
| <u>Rep. Douglas Gutwein, District 16</u> | 317-232-9620 | HD16@IN.gov |
| <u>Sen. Ed Charbonneau, District 5</u> | 317-232-9494 | S5@IN.gov |
| <u>Sen. Randy Head, District 18</u> | 317-232-9488 | S18@IN.gov |