



PADS Peer Action Disability Support
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Thursday, March 19, 2015

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The board and membership of PADS (Peer Action Disability Support), a Linn County-based organization devoted to improving the lives of people with disabilities, would like to thank the Department of Human Services for the opportunity to provide comments regarding the Medicaid Modernization RFP.

We understand and appreciate the goals of the Medicaid Modernization process and the need for coordinated, integrated care. At the same time, many of our members are concerned that changes which will happen as a result of this transition may make it more difficult for persons with disabilities to access necessary services. We recognize that with any undertaking of this nature, it's hard to fully know the impact of things which are still to be determined.

Here are just some of the matters that have been part of our initial discussions, which we hope you will keep in mind as you make decisions and select MCOs:

- Transportation is of critical importance to people on Medicaid, especially the disability community. The current brokerage system isn't providing an acceptable level of service. Many don't know about this program and many others have had difficulties getting rides they need. Any further restriction of these services will create significant problems. Reducing the reimbursement rate for transportation providers will only mean they won't be able to offer rides to people in need.
- As the MCOs become responsible for more aspects of care, people are concerned that they will be forced to switch to providers who are not experienced in dealing with their needs, not willing to take the time required to fully assist them or not able to provide important services. Coordination is valuable, but ensuring adequate care is equally vital.
- The move to more home and community based services will likely work well for some people and not so well for others, especially early on in the process. People, especially those with chronic medical conditions, can't wait to have access to care while the system gets up to speed and properly organized.

Ambitious changes like this will obviously take time and we applaud the tremendous effort you are putting into this work. We know that the savings you are counting on won't come easily. We just want to make sure the desire for efficiency and a good VIS score doesn't ultimately result in reduced health outcomes for some of our state's most vulnerable residents.

We'll continue to monitor the RFP process and the transition to MCOs and would be happy to engage in additional conversations with any DHS or IME staff that may be interested in how this work will impact persons with disabilities.

Sincerely,

PADS Board of Directors