

Developmental Programs & Intake

Bucks County Dept. of Mental Health/Developmental Programs

February 7, 2020



Bucks County Board of Commissioners
Diane M. Ellis-Marseglia, LCSW, *Chair*
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History

History of Intellectual Disability/Autism (ID/A) Services in Pennsylvania

- **Early 1900's:**
 - The American eugenics movement advocated for the segregation of individuals with disabilities from the general public.
 - Pennhurst State School is opened in 1908 (overcrowded conditions from outset)
- **1949:** The Pennsylvania ARC founded to advocate for the needs of individuals with ID.
- **1965:** Social Security Act Amendments establish Medicare/Medicaid

History of Intellectual Disability/Autism (ID/A) Services in Pennsylvania

- **1966:** Pennsylvania MH/MR Act authorizes services in community.
- 1968: "Suffer the Little Children"-Bill Baldini expose' of conditions at Pennhurst
- 1971: ARC vs. Commonwealth-Right to public education/due process
- 1977: Halderman v. Pennhurst-Found segregation of individuals in institutions unconstitutional.
- 1980's-1990's: Pennsylvania's ID/A HCBS waivers were first established
- 1980's-1990's Previous residents of Pennhurst begin process of receiving services in the community.

History of Intellectual Disability/Autism (ID/A) Services in Pennsylvania

- 1990-Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-Equal access/reasonable accommodations
- 1990-Individuals with Disabilities Education Act-Free and appropriate education.
- 1999-U.S. Supreme Court Olmstead ruling-states must provide sufficient access to services in community settings

History of Intellectual Disability/Autism (ID/A) Services in Pennsylvania

- 2015: Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Final Rule-Explains the qualities of HCBS settings and services
- 2016: Employment First Executive Order-First and preferred option for public supports
- 2016: Pennsylvania (ABLE) Act-Tax free savings accounts for disability related expenses



Our Debt to Parents/Advocates of the Past

- Our sons/daughters enjoy many of the benefits fought for and won by parents and advocates of the past
- We have a responsibility to also continue fighting for the benefit of future generations of people with ID/A

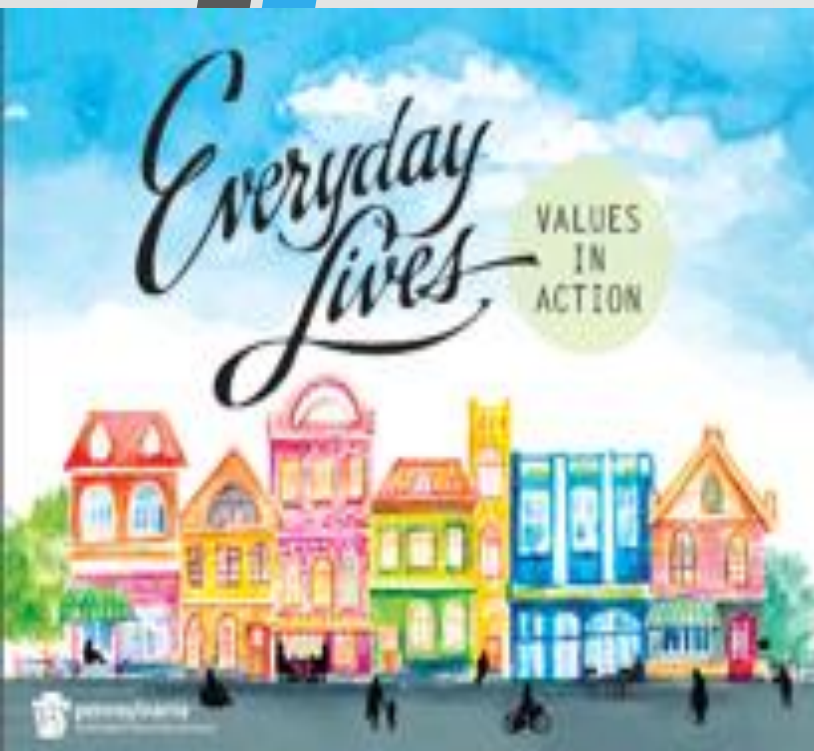
The Future of ID/A Funding



- The Medicaid Waiver programs are the lifeblood of the ID/A service system
- State-Federal partnership, w/ Federal matching of state funds
- No current limit to the Federal contribution
- Changes to the funding of these programs could have catastrophic ramifications for individuals with ID/A
- Block Grant or Defined Budget funding of Medicaid represents a serious threat to funding for HCBS
- Individuals & families need to be aware of conversations related to the funding of Medicaid & contact their representatives regarding potential changes to Medical Assistance funding



Philosophy



The Core Belief of the LifeCourse Framework

“All people have the right to live, love, work, play and pursue their life aspirations in their community. Here in Pennsylvania, LifeCourse is how we can make our values and vision of Everyday Lives a reality for the people we support and their families.”

Pennsylvania Office of Developmental Programs



All people exist within the context of family

“Families are the core unit in our society, serving as a source of support for all its members. For people with disabilities, the role of family is unique and often central in the support and care provided across the lifespan.

The overall goal of supporting families is so they can best support, nurture, love and facilitate opportunities for the achievement of self-determination, interdependence, productivity, integration and inclusion in all facets of community life for all family members”

Supporting Families Through the Lifespan

The Bucks County MH/DP Intake process has been modified to familiarize individuals and families with the LifeCourse Tools. These planning tools help individuals/families create a Vision for a Good life and to have that vision be the focal point of planning and supports across the Lifespan.

Pennsylvania Office of Developmental Programs
LifeCourse Framework developed by UMKC-IHD, UCEDD





Integrating array of supports

“Historically, supporting people with disabilities revolved around the disability services system. But, truly it takes a variety of support to achieve a good life, not just the formal service system alone. Integrated supports include:

Our personal strengths, assets, and interests

Relationships that provide informal support

Community resources we access and count on

Technology

Eligibility-based supports (publicly or privately funded)”

Pennsylvania Office of Developmental Programs
LifeCourse Framework developed by UMKC-IHD, UCEDD

Areas of Emphasis

- Services in home and community-based settings
 - As opposed to settings that have the effect of segregating individuals from the general public
- Competitive integrated employment
- Communication
- Promoting individual choice
- Relationships
- Health & Safety/Freedom from Abuse



Eligibility

Educational Classification vs. Program Eligibility

- Program Eligibility vs. Educational Classification
- Educational Classification
 - Entitlements based on condition
 - Impact upon education
- Program Eligibility
 - Standard for program participation
 - Not an entitlement
 - Qualifying program diagnosis
 - Degree of impairment
 - Available resources
- Difference can confuse and frustrate parents



Eligibility Criteria

- Intellectual Disability (ID)
- Significant impairments in intellectual functioning
 - Examples: WISC-V; WAIS-IV, CTONI, SB-V
 - 2 SD below the mean (i.e. FSIQ=70 or below)
- Two or more areas of significant impairment in adaptive functioning (*for registration*)
- Three or more areas of significant impairment in adaptive functioning (*for waiver enrollment*)
 - Vineland or ABAS-II/ABAS-III
 - 2 SD or greater below the mean (i.e. GAC or ABC of 70 or below)
- Valid assessment results
- Diagnosis of Intellectual Disability
- Onset during developmental period (< to age of 22)



Eligibility Criteria

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder
 - Informed by standardized diagnostic assessment (i.e. GARS, CARS, ADOS, etc.)
 - Three of more areas of significant impairment in adaptive functioning
 - Vineland or ABAS-II/ABAS-III
 - 2 SD or greater below the mean (i.e. GAC or ABC of 70 or below); or
 - 1 SD below the mean (i.e. GAC or ABC of 71-85), if the individual has a FSIQ of 85 or above.
- Valid assessment results
- Onset during developmental period (< to age of 22)



Word of Caution

- Eligibility cannot be reduced to simple numbers.
- Test results must be evaluated in the light of the entire record



PUNS

- While individuals may be found to be functionally eligible for waiver services, individuals are only enrolled based upon available openings (aka “slots”.)
- The PUNS (*Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services*) is the name of the ‘waiting list’ for ID/A services.
- Once enrolled in a waiver, an individual can access services
 - That they have an assessed need for (and)
 - Can be provided within an individual’s given budget



Transition Related Collaboration/Considerations

- Need to understand eligibility criteria for the ID/A system
- Supports Coordinators participation in IEP meetings is essential
- Aligning IEPs post-secondary goals with post-graduation supports
- Can't overemphasize need to develop:
 - Independent living skills
 - Vocational related soft skills
 - Safety/alone time skills
- 24/7 supervision is exception in ID/A support system





Safety

Sexual Health & Victimization

- People with intellectual/developmental disabilities are sexually assaulted at a rate more than seven times that for people without disabilities. *Abused & Betrayed. National Public Radio (2018)*
- Education regarding healthy relationships and sexuality is an essential tool in protecting individuals from victimization.


Sexual Health & Victimization

- The Bucks County Network of Victims Assistance (NOVA) provides Healthy Relationship training for children with intellectual/developmental disabilities.
 - Healthy boundaries
 - Guidelines for interpersonal interactions.
 - Personal boundaries
 - Appropriate and inappropriate touches and requests
 - Assertiveness skills
 - Public vs. private distinctions
- Individuals of all ages need age-appropriate sexual education and safety training
- Caregivers also need to be aware of the signs of victimization

Bucks County Special Victims Investigation Program



- NOVA Special Victims Advisory Committee
- Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)
- CAC: systemic issues for adults with intellectual disabilities
- Vulnerable adults: challenges and obstacles in judicial system
- Encourage Arrest Grant (EAG): create protocols and guidelines for Bucks County (foundation for state standards)



Bucks County Special Victims Investigation Program

- Goals of Program
 - Protect Vulnerable Populations
 - Reduce the Impact of Investigative Process
 - Advocate for Victims
 - Ensure Adequate Support Services
 - Hold Offenders Accountable
 - Prevent Future Victimization

Health & Safety: Fire & Police

- Families should contact their local fire and police departments
- Inform them that an individual(s) with special needs lives in the home
- How these needs could impact fire and police department's contact with your family member

Contact Info

- Please feel free to contact me, in the event that have a concern related to ID/A intake or services

Stephen B. Caughie

ID/A Director

Bucks County MH/DP

215-444-2844

sbcaughie@buckscounty.org