

HCBS Reform Community Forums

Fall 2016

Thursday, November 17, 2016- Kotzebue-15 participants

- People with SMI in this region have no services. Will there ever be a wavier type program to offer services to those with SMI?
- If someone has a diagnosis of autism, they shouldn't be required to re-apply for the IDD waiver each year because their diagnosis will not improve or go away
- How will the training of hiring, firing and training your own PCA be implemented in AK with it being so vast?
- Is the supports waiver for IDD going to be diagnosis specific?
- DBH historically has not provided services, SDS has through IDD waiver. Will this remain this way? If so, needs to be different structure to provide services and more education
- There are not enough ABA service providers in rural areas like Kotzebue. Suggestion to allow these services via tele-technology.
- The soft caps on day habilitation services that are being talked about by SDS are concerning
- Would the IDD supports waiver allow people to get case management if they don't meet NFLOC?
- Case management for people with FASD is hard to do when there are no services to manage?
- EPSDT- what about people over 21 years old?
- Need some type of evaluation system for the different services that are offered to help make improvements in order to meet the unique cultural needs of Alaskans, especially in rural areas.
- The IDD draw down – will it remain at 50 per year? Yes
- Concerned about the IDD registry being low because people are being kicked off of the list due to paperwork not being submitted by the individual or their family.
- Concern about bringing people who are currently in ICF/IIDs back into the community and not being prepared ahead of time with services for the individual to be successful in their community
- Medicaid wants people who travel for medical appointments to do it all in one day and not pay for multi-day travel which is often difficult or impossible for those who live in rural areas like Kotzebue. Medicaid also won't allow 2 escorts to travel with an individual with a disability to attend medical appointments that require travel. Need more flexibility in medical travel.
- STAR grant- had to change the qualifications to bachelor's degree preferred instead of how the job descriptions were previously written, which makes it administrative burden and it is difficult for rural areas to find candidates with bachelor's degrees
- Environmental modifications in Kotzebue area – there are no certified providers of EMOD services and there are no contractors who will do the work in this area. Maniilaq tried to get certified as EMOD provider but requirements were too strict for them to successfully get certified. Need more flexibility in this area.