

November 13, 2008

The Honorable Vincent P. Meconi, Chair
Delaware Health Fund Advisory Committee
Department of Health & Social Services
1901 N. DuPont Highway – Main Bldg.
New Castle, DE 19720

Dear Secretary Meconi:

I write on behalf of the State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) to thank the Delaware Health Fund Advisory Committee (DHFAC) for providing funding (\$830,000) for the Community-based Attendant Services Act (H.B. 30) in FYs 08 & 09. This funding is utilized by both the Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities (DSAAPD) for personal attendant services (PAS) and the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDDS) for “family support” services. DSAAPD contracts with Easter Seals and JEVS to administer both of its state funded and H.B. 30 (tobacco funded) programs and the Division manages the contract as two separate funding sources. Both personal attendant services programs have enjoyed broad support from major disability organizations and the General Assembly.

On November 10, 2008 DSAAPD reported that the H.B. 30 program, in conjunction with the State-funded program, served 87 persons in FY 08 (please note that the number of people served includes those who may not have been served for the entire year). The programs are currently serving 80 individuals in FY 09 and the breakdown is as follows

- The State funded program has \$502,312 and is currently serving 27 individuals.
- The H.B. 30 “tobacco funded” program has \$760,000 and is currently serving 53 individuals.

SCPD truly appreciates that the DHFAC provided an additional \$400,000 for the H.B. 30 program in FY 08 to eliminate the waiting list at that time. Given the demand for the program, there are already another 36 individuals on the waiting list and \$474,450 would be required to secure personal attendant services for those individuals.

Council encourages the Delaware Health Fund Advisory Committee to consider an increase in funding for the PAS program in such a way as to eliminate the waiting list. Enhancement of the PAS program is consistent with Delaware’s commitment to further enhance community-based alternatives for individuals with disabilities as demonstrated by Executive Order 50 and its Money Follows the

Person pilot program. In addition, Delaware may realize cost savings since providing community-based services costs much less than institutional care. For example, as of October 1, 2008, the per diem rate for non-Medicare/Medicaid residents at the Delaware Hospital for the Chronically Ill is \$523.15 which equates to \$190,949.75 annually. For Medicaid residents, as of October 1, 2007, the per diem rate varied from a minimum of \$328.33 to \$451.28 depending on the level of care. This equates to \$119,840.45 annually for the lowest level of care to \$164,717.20 for the highest level of care. The per diem rate for Stockley Center is \$850.55 which equates to \$310,450.75 annually.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniese McMullin-Powell
Chairperson
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

cc: Delaware Health Fund Advisory Committee Members

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