

MiCASSA Talking Points

1. Our long term service system must change. Created over thirty years ago funded by Medicare and Medicaid dollars. These are medical dollars which were not originally conceived to meet people's long term care needs. We must think out of the box to a new system that empowers people and allows REAL choices.
 - The money should follow the individual not the facility or provider.
 - A national long term service policy should not favor any one setting over the other. It should be neutral and let the users choose where services should be delivered. The current system is not neutral.
 - Over 80% of our Medicaid dollars (\$41 billion) spent on long term care is spent on institutional services leaving only 20% (\$10.5 billion) for all community services.
 - Current system is expensive and ways to meet the needs of people in the most cost-effective way must be explored.
 - Community services on average have been shown to be less expensive than institutional services and better like by individuals.
2. Demographics of our country are changing.
 - a) aging process
 - b) children being born with disabilities
 - C) young adults - Medical technology keeping people alive who would have died previously.
3. People with disabilities both old and young, even those with severe mental

and/or physical disabilities want services in the most integrated setting possible. Families must have REAL choice.

4. People with disabilities and their families want REAL choice which means:
 - a) equitable funding opportunities
 - b) no programmatic or rule disincentives to community services
 - c) options for services delivery to include agency, vouchers and fiscal intermediaries. Empower people with disabilities and families.
5. Family values - Keep families together.
 - Communities taking care of their own.
 - Children belong in families.
 - Mom and Dad together with their grandkids.
6. Money following the individual can eliminate over burdening rules and regulations by government regulators.
7. A functional system based on need instead of medical diagnosis could end FRAGMENTATION of service delivery system.
8. Keeping people in the community allows the possibility for individuals with disabilities to train for work so they can become

TAXPAYERS instead of TAX USERS.

9. Overwhelmingly people prefer community services to stay in their own home. Federal gov't needs to work in partnership with the states to create flexible delivery systems that gives people with disabilities REAL choice.
10. Change causes fear of the unknown. There are some long time providers of services and families who believe REAL choice would threaten what they have. We cannot continue the system as it is today. It is expensive, fragmented, over medicalized

and

not liked by almost everyone.

There's No Place Like Home!