

What is influencing changes to the Developmental Disabilities System in California?



WIOA

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, 2014

- Collaboration between Department of Rehabilitation, Department of Developmental Services, and California Department of Education http://www.dor.ca.gov/public/WIOA-information.html
- Help job seekers access employment, education, & support services
- Presumption of employability
- Serve individuals with most significant disabilities, with focus on transitionaged youth
- Detailed requirements for subminimum wage or sheltered placements
- **Transition Planning**
- ➤ Vocational rehabilitation services include the following for students with disabilities (16 through 21 year-olds): job exploration counseling, workbased learning opportunities, counseling on post-secondary educational opportunities, workplace readiness training, & instruction in self-advocacy

Employment First

- http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/st/employmentfirstpolicy.asp
- http://www.scdd.ca.gov/employment_data_dashboard.htm



- Policy of the State that opportunities for competitive integrated employment (CIE) shall be given the highest priority for working-age individuals with developmental disabilities, regardless of the severity of their disability
- > At or above minimum wage
- > Individuals may choose goals other than CIE
- Postsecondary education, technical or vocational training, and internship programs may be considered as a means to achieve integrated competitive employment or career advancement

Paid Internship Program

- DDS funds Regional Centers to pay up to \$10,400 per year, per person
- Available to school districts & adult providers through Regional Centers
- Dept. of Labor ruling 2016
- Precedent-setting decision that all workers must be paid fair wages

ABLE Act

- > California Achieving a Better Life Experience Act
- ➤ CalABLE CA State Treasurer's Office
- > www.treasurer.ca.gov/able
- Account opening process is all done online



- Tax-advantaged account that allows savings up to \$15,000 per year and up to \$100,000 total without losing vital public benefits such as Medicaid/Medi-Cal, SSI or SSDI.
- > Amounts to a work incentive program
- Work income can be put into account
- Funds must be spent on "Qualified Disability Expenses"

Self-Determination Program/SDP	 Department of Developmental Services http://www.dds.ca.gov/sdp/ Sdp@dds.ca.gov to receive email updates Contact Regional Center for more information http://www.scdd.ca.gov/ssdac.htm
SELF	 A way for individuals receiving Regional Center services to have more control and responsibility regarding services and supports to achieve goals Individual Program Plan goals are driven by the Person Centered Planning process and an individual budget
	 2,500 participants statewide for first 3 years (participant selection occurred on 10/01/2018), thereafter open to all in June 2021. Must use vendored FMS (Financial Management Service) Other service providers do not have to be vendored

Olmstead Decision 1999 HCBS Settings

- ➤ Under Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals have right to live in the community rather than confined to institutions
- https://www.ada.gov/olmstead/
- Medicaid Home and Community Based Services Waiver Program & Statewide Transition Plan
- Dept. of Health Care Services, Dept. of Developmental Services <u>http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/ltc/Pages/HCBSStatewideTransitionPlan.aspx</u>
- ➤ All services in every state must follow the new rules by March 2022



- ➤ The Federal government helps fund most services Regional Centers provide to individuals with developmental disabilities
- ➤ HCBS settings are places where they live & spend their days; for example, licensed community care facilities & other residential settings, work activity programs, & day programs
- Restricts funding to services in settings that offer the **choice** of real inclusion in the general community and do not segregate people
- Congregate settings or access restrictions must be specified & justified
- Opportunities to work in competitive integrated settings
- ➤ "Outcome oriented" not just focused on settings location or characteristics
- Increase options, remove unnecessary barriers and controls to full inclusion similar to those not receiving Medicaid services





The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) is established by state and federal law as an independent state agency to ensure that people with developmental disabilities and their families receive the services and supports they need. www.scdd.ca.gov
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