

Hon. Gene DiGirolamo
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March 26, 2014

Dear Rep. DiGirolamo,

Olmstead requires the most appropriate services in the least restrictive setting – and for those labeled ‘intellectually disabled’ due to an accident, illness or poisoning, that may be a brain injury rehabilitation program.

The Arc website lists the causes and ways to prevent intellectual disability – by preventing brain damage through accident, illness, and poisoning.

Those in the intellectual disability system who do not have a genetic disorder must be screened for brain injury and evaluated for their ability to benefit from brain injury rehabilitation.

Cognitive rehabilitation therapy (CRT – CPT97532) is restoring cognitive function after brain injury under commercial health insurance, through Medical Assistance for those under 21, and for adults through three state funded programs:

1. Those 18 - 59 can apply for the OBRA Waiver if they became disabled prior to age 22 from any cause – brain injury rehabilitation and group home programs by CARF approved providers are covered.
2. Those 21 and older can apply for the PA Head Injury Program if they were residing in Pennsylvania and disabled by traumatic brain injury that occurred in Pennsylvania after July 2, 1985. The PHIP provides up to one year or \$100,000 of brain injury rehabilitation by CARF approved providers.
3. Those 21 and older can apply for the COMMCARE Waiver if they became disabled due to a traumatic brain injury at any age – brain injury rehabilitation and group home programs by CARF approved providers are covered.

Please do what you can to start bringing the intellectual disability system into the modern world.

At the onset, those coming into the intellectual disability system with brain injury must be identified and provided with brain injury rehabilitation and programming.

At the same time, those already in the system must be identified and protected from the programming needed for genetic neurodevelopmental conditions.

On providing brain injury training at two different facilities, I was told by top administrators that I was there to change minds and hearts because their programming was the exact opposite of what was needed for clients with brain injury.

Please unlock the doors, open the windows, and let a new breeze blow in – there is treatment for cognitive recovery after brain injury.

Thank you,

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