

Testimony on the Department of Human Services'  
Overview of Services Provided to Individuals with Disabilities

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Good morning Chairmen DiGirolamo and Cruz, members of the House Human Services Committee and staff. My name is Kevin Hancock, and I am the Chief of Staff of the Office of Long Term Living with the Department of Human Services (DHS). Appearing with me is Steve Suroviec, Deputy Secretary of the Office of Developmental Programs. On behalf of Acting Secretary Ted Dallas, we want to thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding an overview of the services provided to individuals with disabilities. In accordance with our vision and mission, the DHS joins Governor Wolf in his commitment to improve the quality and availability of community-based services for individuals living with both physical and intellectual disabilities.

The proposed fiscal year 2015-16 budget includes initiatives to reduce waiting lists for programs serving individuals with intellectual disabilities in home- and community-based settings as follows, as well as expanding services for individual with physical disabilities and older Pennsylvanians:

- \$18.9 million to provide supports for home- and community-based options for 1,000 individuals with intellectual disabilities.
- \$372,000 to provide supports for home- and community-based options for 50 individuals with autism.
- \$5.7 million to provide the opportunity for 165 individuals with mental illness and intellectual disabilities to transfer from state institutional placements to home- and community-based settings.
- \$16.1 million to support home- and community based options for almost 1,500 individuals with physical disabilities.

- \$14.9 million to support home- and community based options for approximately 2,000 older Pennsylvanians.

The Office of Long Term Living (OLTL) oversees a budget of \$5.5 billion and employs more than 200 commonwealth and contract staff to administer and develop programs serving Pennsylvania's older adults and adults with physical disabilities. OLTL administers an array of Medical Assistance (MA) programs across the long-term care continuum to provide services to these individuals. OLTL's home and community-based services programs assist individuals to remain in the setting of their choice, helping them to age in place.

OLTL administers six Medicaid waiver programs: Aging, AIDS, Attendant Care, Independence, COMMCARE, and OBRA - in addition to one state-funded program, ACT 150. These programs allow approximately 48,000 individuals to receive long-term living supports and services in their homes and communities. These programs are designated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) as waivers because certain federal requirements must be waived in order for the state to provide services through MA programs in a non-institutional setting. The participants in these programs are served by 98 service coordination entities that are enrolled, certified, and monitored by OLTL.

The waiver programs are described as follows:

- OLTL and the Department of Aging work together to provide individuals over age 60 with services through the Aging Waiver. An interested individual can inquire through their local county Area Agency on Aging to determine if they meet the financial and clinical eligibility requirements to receive home and community-based services.

- The AIDS Waiver supports those who are 21 years of age and older with home and community-based services if they are symptomatic with HIV or AIDS.
- Individuals with physical disabilities meeting the clinical and financial eligibility requirements are provided home and community-based services through the Attendant Care Waiver if they are capable of a) selecting and supervising attendant care worker(s); b) managing their own financial affairs; and c) managing their own legal affairs.
- The COMMCARE Waiver provides home and community-based services for individuals over 21 years of age who experience a medically determinable diagnosis of traumatic brain injury. A traumatic brain injury is defined as a blunt force trauma and does not include medically caused traumas or others resulting from oxygen deprivation to the brain.
- The Independence Waiver ensures that there are home and community-based services for individuals between the ages of 18 and 59 who have physical disabilities with no primary diagnosis of intellectual disability or mental illness.
- The OBRA Waiver supplies home and community-based services for individuals between the ages of 18 and 59 with developmental physical disabilities that manifested prior to age 22.
- OLTL also administers a completely state-funded program. The Act 150 Program is for individuals between the ages of 18 and 59. This program mirrors the Attendant Care Waiver in clinical eligibility and available services for those who are not MA eligible.

In addition, OLTL monitors compliance and processes payments for more than 630 nursing facilities serving 49,000-plus residents receiving MA. OLTL administers a managed care, risk-based capitation program called LIFE (Living Independence for the Elderly). This

Pennsylvania program is nationally renowned and recognized by its correlate federal name of the: Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). The 18 providers in the LIFE program provide comprehensive support and medical services to nearly 4,000 participants across 33 sites.

The LIFE program allows individuals to remain in their homes if their need progresses to a point in which they are most effectively served in a nursing facility. The LIFE provider will pay for services in the most appropriate setting through their capitated reimbursement as the only available managed long term care program in Pennsylvania. OLTL is also responsible for setting rates, administering medical assistance payments, and performing financial monitoring for nursing facilities. As part of its responsibilities, OLTL develops policies and regulations, provides training and technical assistance, and runs both a participant and a provider help line to field questions and complaints.

The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) works with individuals and families to provide supportive services and care for people with developmental disabilities, including intellectual disabilities and autism. ODP supports Pennsylvanians with developmental disabilities to achieve greater independence, choice, and opportunity in their lives. ODP provides services through three waivers to assist recipients with home and community-based services through the Consolidated Waiver, the Person/Family Directed Support (P/FDS) Waiver, the Adult Autism Waiver, and Base Funding, which is comprised of state monies only. ODP also provides services through the Adult Autism Community Program (ACAP), a managed care model. In addition, ODP oversees five state centers and a number of private Intermediate Care Facilities/Intellectual Development facilities, and the Autism Services, Education, Resources & Training Collaborative (ASERT).

The Consolidated Waiver is designed to assist individuals ages three years of age and older who have been diagnosed with an intellectual disability to live more independently in their homes and communities. It provides a variety of services that promote community living, including self-directed service models and traditional, agency-based service models.

The P/FDS Waiver provides services to individuals who are age three or older and have an intellectual disability. These services include home- and community habilitation, personal support services, respite care, supported environment, and transportation. The primary difference between the P/FDS Waiver and the Consolidated Waiver is that the P/FDS Waiver has a cap of \$30,000 per recipient and does not provide residential habilitation services.

The Base Funding Program is a limited amount of state monies allocated each year to counties that they may use at their discretion to serve individuals with intellectual disabilities. For those counties who have opted into the Human Services Block Grant, their base funding is included in their Human Services Block Grant allocation. In order to register for intellectual disability (ID) services, an individual needs to take several steps. Individuals or their families can contact ODP's customer service line or their local county program to start the registration process. Once someone is registered and deemed eligible for services, they are entitled to a supports coordinator (SC). The SC assists with completing an application for MA; helps fill out the home and community-based application and service delivery preference form; complete the prioritization of urgency of need for services (PUNS); helps develop an individual support plan (ISP) to get the necessary services; and locates and monitors needed services.

The Adult Autism Waiver is a statewide program that currently has the capacity to support 518 individuals who are 21 years of age or older who have been diagnosed with an

Autism Spectrum Disorder and includes a number of services such as assistive technology, behavioral specialists, job assessment and finding, and respite care.

The Adult Community Autism Program is a managed care program that provides physical, behavioral, and community services through an integrated approach. It currently has the capacity to support 146 individuals who are 21 years of age or older and who have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder and reside in Dauphin, Cumberland, Chester and Lancaster counties.

ASERT Collaborative (Autism Services, Education, Resources and Training) is a statewide initiative and is a key component of the commonwealth's strategy for supporting individuals with autism and their families across the lifespan. ASERT supports the Department's efforts to continually improve the quality of its programs and connects existing resources and expertise to address regional gaps in effective services and supports. Each year, ASERT supports an estimated 40,000 individuals, families and professionals through their clinical services, training and outreach efforts, and their reach continues to expand significantly each year.

The ACAP Adult Community Autism Program is a managed care program that provides physical, behavioral, and community services for 146 adults, 21 years of age or older, through an integrated approach to create a coordinated system of supports. This program is available in four counties – Chester, Cumberland, Dauphin and Lancaster.

In addition to the autism programs offered by the commonwealth, DHS is beginning efforts to partner with the Pennsylvania Insurance Department to improve implementation of Act 62 of 2008, the autism insurance mandate. The law requires many insurers to cover diagnostic assessments and services for individuals under age 21 with autism, up to \$36,000 annually. It

also requires DHS to cover services for individuals who do not have private insurance coverage or who reach their annual limit. Our implementation effort will ensure that families, providers and insurers are knowledgeable of the law's requirements and that it is appropriately enforced.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the hearing today and to explain the services provided to individuals with disabilities across the commonwealth. We would be happy to take any questions you may have at this time.