



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

Terrence W. Macy, Ph.D.
Commissioner

Joseph W. Drexler, Esq.
Deputy Commissioner

April 2, 2013

Dear Individuals and Families:

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is often asked about how decisions are made regarding which eligible individuals receive funding for services.

There are approximately 15,000 individuals with intellectual disability eligible for DDS supports and services. Funding is allocated based upon individual level of need and available appropriations. The amount of the appropriation available is decided every two years through the state budget process by the Governor and the legislature. The provision of any new services for individuals would have to be through additional funding or if an individual passes away or for other reasons no longer needs his or her funding. Therefore, a very limited amount of new funding becomes available year to year.

Each year, DDS is faced with the task of deciding which individuals will receive supports within available funding. This is one of the most difficult tasks that the department faces; however, we take it very seriously and strive to be fair and consistent. Each of DDS's three regions has a Planning and Resource Allocation Team (PRAT) charged with ensuring that all individuals are treated fairly and equitably in the allocation of resources when requesting day or residential supports and services.

DDS has a process to triage funding requests based on the urgency of a situation (Level of Need) and Federal Medicaid requirements which we must comply with in order to participate in the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver system.

1. Individuals who are determined to have an emergency need for services by PRAT.

Emergencies are defined in our PRAT procedure as a situation that exists when the health, safety or welfare of the individual or others is at great risk and the situation cannot be resolved. The individual or their parent or guardian must be willing to accept the most appropriate available resource.

An example of an emergency would be when a sole caregiver dies and there are no other family members who can step in to help.

2. Individuals who have an immediate Protective Service Plan in place and for whom the regional director, or his designee, has determined that additional resources are necessary.

When someone calls the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities (OPA) with an allegation of abuse or neglect and the individual lives on their own or with family, OPA assesses the situation and requests from DDS an immediate Protective Service Plan for the individual if OPA deems it necessary. DDS reviews the Protective Service Plan and when appropriate, will commit resources to address the situation.

An example of this would be an individual who has an extraordinary health and safety issue, is at risk of imminent harm, and can no longer remain in their own or their family home.

3. Individuals enrolled on a Medicaid waiver with unmet health and safety needs for whom PRAT has determined that additional resources are necessary.

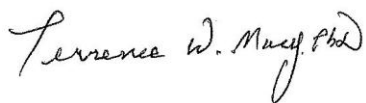
An example of this would be an individual who has become unable to walk or take care of himself or herself due to advancing age or a progressive illness.

The majority of individuals waiting for residential services do not meet the above criteria. Without additional funding to address the waiting list, families who do not meet these criteria will continue to wait for services.

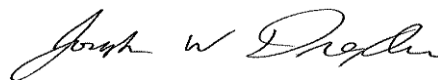
Over the years, we have been impressed by the families of individuals served by the department. We respect your commitment to your loved one. We appreciate and share your desire to see that a transition from living with family to living in a different setting occurs in a thoughtful and planful way. The Department continues to ask for your patience and understanding that resources need to be focused on emergency cases.

We recognize that this communication does not alleviate the frustration that many of you feel. However, we hope that by providing information on how funding requests are acted upon, we have provided some clarity for you and your family.

Sincerely,



Terrence W. Macy, Ph.D.
Commissioner



Joseph W. Drexler, Esq.
Deputy Commissioner

cc: Regional Directors
PRAT Teams
Supervisors of Case Management
Case Managers