

Independent Providers

State Budget proposals were released this week and include a plan to phase out independent providers beginning in 2016. The proposed phase-out would be for three years from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2019. According to a Feb. 3 story in the Columbus Dispatch, this would apply to 13,000 independent providers. This proposal would apply to providers of individuals who have developmental disabilities and other independent providers.

Conflict Free Case Management

Discussions are continuing on the topic of Conflict Free Case Management. Recent correspondence from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) states "Once there is sufficient capacity within the county, the county board may no longer provide both services and case management to individuals". While this would not apply to early childhood and school services because they are not funded with home and community based waivers, this would have implications for FCBDD adult services and adult transportation.

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It is possible FCBDD may need to consider separating adult services and adult transportation similar to the way Franklin County Residential Services (FCRS, Inc.) separated from FCBDD in 2004. The state will be communicating with CMS regarding a corrective action plan related to 'Conflict Free Case Management.'

TDD Waiver

Another budget proposal is to convert the Transitions DD (TDD) waivers to IO waivers, beginning in July, 2015. Another budget proposal is to add nursing services to the IO waiver to serve people with medical needs who live in community settings. The budget proposals are expected to be debated in the legislature for several months before it is approved in June.

Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities | (614) 475-6440 newsbits@fcbdd.org | www.fcbdd.org 2879 Johnstown Road, Columbus, OH 43219

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