

**Input for FY2018-19 DADS  
Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR)**

Individual/Organization <b>COMMUNITY FOR PERMANENT SUPPORTED HOUSING (CPSH)</b>
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**Description of Initiative/Issue:**

It is difficult and unclear how an adult living with IDD and their families learn about and access support services so that adults living with IDD may live independently of their parents. Understanding services and funding sources (HCS, CFC, TxHML, etc.) is confusing. Service providers are not communicating the same information about these services, forcing families to shop around to get the services they need from providers who explain services in the way families understand them.

The current methods of communication require families to be experts in or seek/hire experts to navigate the Texas Medicaid system to understand the programs their children can access. Such a system creates the appearance that the State and its affiliates are not providing these consumers with the services they need, and creates stress in the families because services are not (easily) identified.

In addition, even if funding is available for certain services, excuses (such as lack of (qualified) staff) prevent the services from being delivered.

**What is the critical need that needs to be addressed?**

Families need a simple approach to understanding and accessing services so they can plan for the time that their children will live without them.

Is this Issue/Initiative?    New     Expansion     Restoration

**Proposed Solution:**

The aging population (over the age of 22) of consumers with IDD needs to be considered when creating information material about services for this population, and their families or guardians. The language needs to be simplified (not professional jargon). The material should include issues and concerns that the consumer and their families or guardians are concerned about. For example: How do I use this service to help my child live away from me? This would encourage a consistent description of the service across the State and provide the needed information to families. There should not be an assumption that these adults will be living with their parents until they die or an encouragement that they will (which there appears to be). Living with families or living away from families are options that should be respected. Both options should be discussed at planning meeting with families, even if the provider needs to bring up these options. The training for providers to support aging consumers and their families needs to include independent living, the housing options available, and the services needed.

A review of services currently available/funded/consumer requested but not staffed by providers should be held quarterly by the Local Authorities. The LAs should provide assistance to these providers to help them provide these services. The focus should be what the consumers need. Problem solving should be encouraged by the all so that providers and LAs can help each other. It would be helpful to share this information with consumers and their families so they know their concerns are being heard and addressed.

**What do you recommend as a course of action? (Continued):**

**What do you recommend as a course of action?**

Stand in the shoes of the aging consumers and families to understand their fears and needs. Address these fears and needs with language that shows the State understands and wants to align the budget available with the services needed.

Provide easy access to services. Have a rapid reaction continuous improvement program to address funded services that are not staffed. Ask providers what their consumers are asking for that they aren't receiving. Share information with consumers so they know they have been heard.

**Please complete this template and return it no later than 5 pm on Monday, March 14, 2016. See instructions for information on submittal.**

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