

Wisconsin Council on Children with Long Term Support Needs

RECOMMENDATION

November 29, 2012

The Youth Employment Services (YES) Investment *A proposal for a new lower cost service tier within Family Care, Partnership and IRIS for Youth in Transition*

This proposal simultaneously addresses the importance of developing and maintaining integrated employment for youth, as well as the needs of families so they can continue to work after their transition-aged young adult leaves school.

Building on previous discussions for new ideas in Long-Term Care, disability advocates and families have developed a revised proposal that incorporates many of the good ideas and tangible results from the Dane County model, which supports young adults exiting high school so they can participate in integrated employment.

This proposal contains two elements that together preserve and promote integrated employment for young adults and support to their families, many of whom continue to provide guidance, problem-solving, coordination and care to their young adult with disabilities while working themselves.

These services would be available as a package both to a) young adults who have integrated employment in the community when they exit high school at age 21, and b) those who do not have a job but are working toward their goal of integrated employment.

We have made the assumption that ALL young adults, no matter how significant their disability, can benefit from integrated employment and make contributions to their community.

Key Ideas for the Proposed New Tier of Service in Wisconsin

1. Eligibility to include all new graduates with disabilities who meet the eligibility criteria for Family Care, Partnership, or IRIS and who fit DVR Category 1.
2. Implementation in Family Care, Partnership and IRIS.
3. Any services which a young adult would receive on the Medicaid card if s/he were not enrolled in YES would still be available on the Medicaid card, or would be available through Family Care, Partnership or IRIS.
4. The LTC service package will include the following services:

Employment related services

- Service coordination /case management
- Consumer Directed support broker services
- Customized and supported employment services
- Vocational futures planning
- Job coaching

- Assistive technology (necessary for employment and community participation)
- Daily Living Skills training
- Consumer Education and Training
- Non medical transportation for school and work and community participation

Family Support related services

- Consumer/Family Education and Training
- Respite Care
- Supportive home care

5. Requires strong coordination with DVR.
6. This proposal does not include changes in the legacy waivers to achieve a comparable result in non-Family Care counties. However, we believe that young adults in the legacy counties should have an equal right to these supports. Consequently, we are assuming that a decision to lift the caps will include a timeline to bring the remaining legacy counties into Family Care & IRIS in the near future. (If this is not the case, we would like to re-open the discussion of what will be available for young adults in the legacy counties.)

Concerns & Clarifications

In advancing this proposal, it is important to acknowledge the concerns of some parents and to clarify what this proposal is and is not:

1. Some young adults with severe/complex disabilities face extra obstacles in securing integrated employment. We will need to make sure we provide needed supports for this group and make it clear that we intend for them to be covered by this benefit.
2. This program is not a replacement for comprehensive Family Care or IRIS services. It is intended to be a time-limited, cost effective strategy for some young adults until the point in time that it makes sense for the person to move out of their parents' home and/or the full Family Care benefit becomes available. Relatedly, there are some young adults who will require more comprehensive supports at age 22 (or even earlier). These people should receive priority on the wait list, and some of them may meet the urgent need criteria.