Autism Society of America

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My Story…

Achieve with us.
Lifelong Supports

• Lifelong supports include those that support individuals with autism across their lifespan. They can be many things depending on the person's needs.

• Lifelong supports can include:
  § Supports for Caregivers;
  § Housing and residential programs;
  § Meaningful day activities including employment;
  § Other supports needed throughout the lifespan
HCBS

Home and Community-based Services (HCBS) provide all these things and more:

§ Respite, in-home supports, etc.
§ Group homes, independent living, supportive housing, etc.
§ Day programs, supported employment, pre-vocational training, etc.
§ Transportation, home modifications, adaptive aids, etc.
Medicaid 101
Medicaid – Current Threats

Medicaid Restructuring

• Currently: States receive Federal Medicaid matching funds as an “entitlement” for services provided under the state plan or approved waivers. The federal match is based on a formula - poorer states receive a higher federal match.
  — restructuring is a permanent change to Medicaid program
• Restructuring proposals would eliminate the automatic matching funds to the states. Depending on the nature of the restructuring, many federal requirements could be eliminated.
  • Block grants
  • Per capita caps*
EMPOWER Care Act
Money Follows the Person

• Since 2005 the Money Follows the Person (MFP) rebalancing demonstration has served as a catalyst that enhances existing Medicaid transition services, resulting in 88,000 Medicaid beneficiaries returning to community living.

• Catalyst for systems change

• Out of money
HCBS Infrastructure Act
Bill not-yet introduced would provide grant funds to states to help improve their HCBS programs. Funds could be use to:
• Assist providers in becoming more integrated and person-centered as required by the HCBS Settings Rule;
• Transportation;
• Housing;
• Waiting list reduction?
• Etc.
• Will be introduced soon
• Tell Congress why HCBS is so important and to **strengthen HCBS programs**
HCBS SETTINGS RULE
HCBS Settings Rule

- HCBS Settings Rule was finalized in 2014 and requires states to improve HCBS.
- Specifically states must:
  - Plan
  - Survey settings
  - Engage stakeholders
- Help settings comply with Person-Centered requirements

Concerns have been raised:
- Misunderstanding of what it actually means, updated guidance to clarify (no one is being forced out)—Heightened Scrutiny
- Stakeholders need to be engaged
- Ask Congress to preserve and strengthen HCBS
Questions?

Feel free to contact me:

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