

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
COMMISSION ON
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**



**Indiana Legislative Services Agency
200 W. Washington St., Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789**

November 2009

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Commission on Developmental Disabilities

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November 2009

A copy of this report is available on the Internet. Reports, minutes, and notices are organized by committee. This report and other documents for this Committee can be accessed from the General Assembly Homepage at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>.

INFORMATION REPORT

Commission on Developmental Disabilities

I. STATUTORY DIRECTIVE

The Indiana Commission on Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities was established by P.L. 78-1994 to do the following:

- (1) develop a long-range plan for community-based services for the developmentally disabled; and
- (2) review, make recommendations, and monitor changes regarding services to the mentally retarded and developmentally disabled population.

P.L. 245-1997 amended the original legislation, extending the life of the Commission to January 1, 2001. P.L. 272-1999 further extended the life of the Commission to January 1, 2005, and added the following responsibilities:

- (1) review and make recommendations regarding the implementation of a comprehensive plan ("317 Plan") prepared by the Developmental Disabilities Task Force; and
- (2) review and make recommendations regarding the development by the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services of a statewide plan to address quality assurance in community-based services.

P.L. 242-2001 added an annual review of the Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities Program ("First Steps") to the Commission's duties.

In 2002, the Commission was converted to a permanent statutory commission in P.L. 190-2002. In addition, the Commission was required to:

- (1) study and make recommendations for the state to use state employees or contract with a private entity to manage and implement home- and community-based services waivers;
- (2) study and make recommendations regarding state funding needed to provide supplemental room and board costs for individuals who otherwise qualify for residential services under the home- and community-based services waivers; and
- (3) monitor and recommend changes for improvements in the implementation of home- and community-based services waivers.

II. SUMMARY OF WORK PROGRAM

The Commission met three times during the 2009 interim session on September 15, September 29, and October 20, 2009.

The Commission is not required to file a final report. Meeting minutes for the

Commission can be accessed from the General Assembly homepage at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>

III. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Commission addressed several topics during three meetings. (More information regarding the meetings can be obtained from the minutes available from the General Assembly homepage referenced above.)

At the September 15 meeting, the Commission received an update on the state of the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services (DDRS), the First Steps Program, and the OASIS program. INARF and the Arc of Indiana voiced concerns to the Commission about funding shortages for developmental disability programs, accreditation of day service providers, the direct support professionals initiative (INTrain), diversion programs for the developmentally disabled, and employment of individuals with developmental disabilities.

At the September 29 meeting, the Commission heard additional testimony from Ms. Williams regarding the Alliance for Full Participation platform for increasing employment of individuals with developmental disabilities. The Director of DDRS, Mr. Bisbecos, provided answers to questions Commission members had from the previous meeting. The Commission also reviewed resolution language INARF and the Arc of Indiana created that supported continued efforts by FSSA to obtain funding for INTrain. INARF and the Arc of Indiana provided the Commission with information regarding accreditation of adult day service providers. Additionally, INARF and the Arc of Indiana informed the Commission that inconsistencies exist in the current accreditation statute and these inconsistencies should be addressed to ensure a consistent approach to accreditation.

At the October 20 meeting, DDRS provided information on unduplicated individuals on the support services, autism, and developmental disabilities waiver waiting list. DDRS also answered additional questions the Commission had regarding prospective benefit cuts and benefit increases. The Commission received a report and brief summary of accreditation policies in other states. INARF provided additional testimony regarding accreditation of adult day service providers. The Commission reviewed legislative resolutions for the following legislative session.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following drafts and recommendations were approved by the Commission at the October 20, 2009, meeting.

The Commission supports the goals set forth by the Alliance for Full Participation's campaign, "Real Jobs-It's Everybody's Business". The proposed resolution expresses the Commission's full support for the Alliance for Full Participation's goal to double the employment rate for people with developmental disabilities by 2015 and urges the Indiana General Assembly to do so as well.

The Commission encourages the Family and Social Services Administration to continue efforts to develop systemic, comprehensive professional development and education for direct support professionals, like the INTrain Project, and to support efforts to obtain funding for these programs. The proposed resolution encourages the Family and Social Services Administration to continue efforts to develop these programs and support efforts to

obtain funding for the same.

Other recommendations added to the report, but not formally voted on by Commission members, include the following:

The Commission recognizes a need to find new funding sources to continue providing much-needed services to individuals with developmental disabilities. The Commission urges the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services to seek alternative funding sources to replace the federal stimulus dollars to continue to fund services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

The Commission recognizes that before any action regarding accreditation of adult day service providers is taken, more research and debate is required. The Commission recognizes the state should receive the best value for every dollar it spends on services for the developmentally disabled. The Commission also recognizes that the individuals that provide services to those with developmental disabilities are very important to the state and their clients. For these reasons, the Commission recommends further study of the issue of accreditation.