



Mental Health and Disability Services Redesign 2011

Cedar Rapids, Iowa Listening Post

Source: Public Comments

Date: September 16, 2011

Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

*These public comments were captured during the Cedar Rapids, Iowa Listening Post that took place on September 16, 2011. Director Chuck Palmer represented DHS. Any case specific materials that were provided publicly were done so by family members. Department responses provided to the consumer and/or family member as a follow-up to a question asked during the meeting are confidential.

Comment: I am a retired social worker. We need funding. What is the plan to better fund human services?

Comment: I am a member of PADS. I have a question regarding Olmstead compliance. I want waivers to be individually based on need not diagnosis. Education and workforce issues need to be addressed. There are transportation issues for those with mental health and disabilities. I also fear nursing home placements for people.

Comment: I want to request the extension of the MEPD past age 65.

Comment: There needs to be better assessment of need. Also, there is a lack of peer support available.

Comment: I am a parent of a child with Brain Injury. I want DHS to make sure that individual needs are considered. Please don't put one level or one size to fit all in that level. I would like to see more respite care services. It saves money by keeping the child in the home and not in a more expensive placement. You need to keep the individual in mind not diagnosis.

Comment: I have an 8 year old daughter who needs an extension of services. Please expand services into rural areas. There is a great need for services in smaller communities.

Comment: I am an advocate and am worried about core services. My fear is that they would be "cookie cutter" and not individualized. I want MEPD to extend past 65 years old. People lose services at 65.

- Comment: Dave's Place has sub acute hospitalization and I am concerned about IME exclusion for mental health.
- Comment: I am a regional member from Cedar Rapids and have concerns about what the larger counties would have to give up in the Redesign.
- Comment: I am the Executive Director of sub acute center. I am concerned about adult mental health and RCFs not being looked at as a core service. I believe it should be. There is a need for more sub acute care. I questioned how would a RCF- BMI be funded?
- Comment: I am the Executive Director for Brain Injury Association. It is about making choices of what are the core services." We need to provide 5 "H", Priorities and Choices.
- Comment: I am the mother of two special needs children. My children live at home even though the experts said they shouldn't. I want the state to make "better" decisions on where the money goes. I am against money going to institutions.
- Comment: I am a family member of 16 year old kid not in prison, but I want jail diversion and better youth transition to mental health services.
- Comment: I am a consumer concerned about Aspersers and the persons aging with Aspersers and autism. I want the Redesign to keep in mind aging issues of these populations.
- Comment: I am a family member whose son is in a prevocational rehab program, but the 1 year limit of job readiness isn't enough. We need to individualize and extend this to help people who may take longer.
- Comment: I believe that targeted case management needs to be more consistent across the state.
- Comment: I am a provider and I have some concerns about workforce issues. Recruitment and retention issues are a concern. If we want quality we have to have direct support people.
- Comment: I am a consumer and mom of a 2 year old who was on the waiting list. During this process peer advocacy was helpful. I want a flexible and smarter system to prevent acute stages.
- Comment: I am a Cedar Rapids City Council Member that has a sister with a disability. If we stopped the war and raised taxes we would have enough money.

Comment: I am a consumer with Fibromyalgia and arthritis trying to make ends meet. I do believe there is a way to calculate money to cover more services.

Comment: I am a peer support specialist and there is a need for more peer support.

Comment: I am the mother of a daughter with ID. My daughter seems to be a middle person of being higher functioning than “Options” program but lower than competitive workforce. My daughter is worried about the program getting cut. This program allows her to get in the community. Core component is really about self worth.

If you have additional input that you feel is critical to consider in the redesign process, please email your comments to: DHS-MHSRedesign@dhs.state.ia.us.

If you would like to learn more about the Redesign process and follow the progress of the workgroups, visit: <http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/Partners/MHDSRedesign.html>.