

To: Developmental Disabilities Service System Task Force Members

From: Gail Goodwin, Community Advocate - Association of County Human Services

Our recommendations are based on these issues in the development of a System of Services

- The public interest is benefited by a broad array of services supporting persons with developmental disabilities at home or in the community that promote individual autonomy, dignity, and choice.
- The state should consider the needs of all persons with developmental disabilities and spend its limited resources in a manner that services more people, while not compromising the care required.

Our recommendations are:

- Continued additions to supported living, SOLA and crisis respite services as proposed by Governor Gregoire.
- Add Developmental Disabilities services to Caseload Forecasting. There are currently around 14,000 persons on the “no paid services” caseload. Accurate information on the number of persons in the system will allow for improved systematic planning and requests for funding.
- A thorough review of the 14,000 clients on the “no paid services” caseload to see what type of services they may need and then a cost analysis of those needs.
- Add Francis Hadden Morgan Center property to the Dan Thompson memorial developmental disabilities community trust account. The proceeds from the use of this property should be included in that trust fund.
- Include the sale of property to the Dan Thompson memorial trust account.
- Proceed with the consolidation/downsizing or closure of institutional capacity by using a measured approach that uses savings or projected savings to create additional community – based capacity when needed and establishing reasonable timeframes to assure community capacity.

We fully support our State and the concept that a continuum of care for people with developmental disabilities can be achieved in a person’s local community. When looking at our current system, the lack of services for those people needing some services seems to be where our continuum is lacking. The County system has capacity to provide supported employment and/or community access services.

Family support, respite and supported employment and/or community access services if available when and where families need them, may reduce the need for more expensive services later on. Services in the community are a cost effective way to allow people with disabilities and their families to manage without other more expensive services.