

Position Statement on Alternative Daytime Opportunities

Position Statement

The Arc Minnesota believes that individual with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) who choose not to work full-time must have **informed choices** among a wide range of alternative daytime opportunities. These opportunities range from self-designed programs to five days a week at a more traditional day program. These choices should seek to foster more involvement in the broader community.

The Arc Minnesota believes that this is an opportunity for current daytime service providers and families to envision new methods and programs for providing services as they seek to offer more choices for individuals. The Arc Minnesota believes all stakeholders should be involved in creating new daytime opportunities for individuals with I/DD.

Informed choices of alternative daytime opportunities must be considered as part of a Person-Centered Plan that is directed by the needs and preferences of the individual. The plan must have workable goals and measurable actions and outcomes. It must not be limited to existing services and supports but instead envision a future of choices for individuals with I/DD. These choices must not be unreasonably restricted by constraints like funding that are arbitrarily imposed without regard for the choices of the individual found in their Person-Centered Plan.

Issue

For those who do not choose integrated, competitive employment, there are currently few real choices for individuals for daytime services and supports. Choices have been between day training and habilitation (DT&H) programs and center-based work programs. The new Minnesota Olmstead Plan mandate for person-centered planning can be used to develop new choices and opportunities for daytime services and supports. Informed choice must be part of the process of developing a Person-Centered Plan based on the desires and needs of the individual. Adequate flexibility in this process and in the funding for services in Person-Centered Plans can provide a chance for individuals with I/DD to broaden daytime opportunities.

Waiver funding changes made by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in its Home and Community Based Services rules will affect available choices for alternative daytime opportunities in “settings that isolate” and are presumed to have institutional qualities. This means that traditional DT&H programs and center-based work programs will need to make

changes so individuals with I/DD are more included in the community at large, but also to bring the larger community into daytime centers to build relationships with persons with I/DD. These modified programs should continue to be available as informed choices for alternative daytime opportunities based on individuals' Person-Centered Plans, along with new daytime opportunities as they are developed.

Approved by The Arc Minnesota Position Statements Task Force - August 17, 2015.

Approved by The Arc Minnesota Public Policy Committee - August 19, 2015.

Approved by The Arc Minnesota Board of Directors - September 12, 2015.

Approved by Delegates at The Arc Minnesota Annual Meeting - October 23, 2015.