

Wrice, Monique

From: HSTestimony
Subject: FW: Testimony for the Human Services Public Hearing on Feb 18, 2016

February 15, 2016

Annemarie Infantino Murphy, Ph.D.

Public Testimony

In Opposition to portions of SB 17

Dear Human Services Committee,

I am in opposition to the Governor Malloy's plan to remove the committees of cognizance oversight for federal Medicaid waivers and waiver amendments. Subsequent removal of oversight would lead to removal of public hearings and the opportunity to have meaningful input from all stakeholders including family, waiver participants, providers, and agencies.

I have been a provider on the ABI waiver for over 15 years. The Acquired Brain Injury Waiver was developed through input from many sources including consumers with Acquired Brain Injuries, family, providers of rehabilitation services, and the Department of Social Services. In addition, outside community members were invited to committee and planning meetings. The program stood for several years without change or complaint by the served population. Only when the administration sought changes that were unacceptable to participants and family did they need the intervention of the Legislature. The only way these stakeholders were guaranteed a voice in the process is because of the public process attached to the committees of cognizance. If not for this process the stakeholders would have been forced to litigate our complaints through protection and advocacy, CMS or the courts.

The Acquired Brain Injury Waiver as had many contentious public hearings over major changes to the program over the past two and a half years. Many of the amendments have been in the desire to save money or adjust to new federal regulations according to the Division of Social Services. Because of the public hearings, our elected representatives and the public were able to hear testimony to assure that services were the best possible for the ABI consumers. The ABI program is based on the principle of person-centered planning. That placed the desires and needs of the person receiving services as the driving force behind the individual's program design. Person Centered Planning is behind federal legislation in healthcare and is the reason for this Medicaid waiver has been so effective in moving consumers with ABI back to the community.

I urge you to continue with public and stakeholder's ability to provide input into the oversight of the Medicaid Waiver programs. Why would the State of Connecticut chose to move backwards from a process that ensures new waivers and changes to the current waivers are appropriate to the people served?

Sincerely,

Annemarie Infantino Murphy, PhD

Licensed Psychologist
Cognitive-Behavioral Provider

Annemarie Infantino Murphy, Ph.D.