

THE PLAN

Principles

Following are the Principles that provide the foundation for the Plan to address the waiting list in Pennsylvania. All decisions and actions related to the provision of mental retardation services and supports are to be weighed against these principles.

Everyday Lives

Everyday Lives, published in 1991, expresses the values upon which the Pennsylvania Mental Retardation Service System is based. Everyday Lives presented what people with disabilities said is important to them.

Choice - in the decisions of life; choice of jobs, friends, recreation, where and with whom to live.

Control - of relationships, money, transportation, services, medicine and staff.

Permanency - with a life in the community among family and friends; no fear of returning to the institution.

Security - and protection for those who have difficulty in communication; competent services; and safety in the community.

Freedom - of movement, and from stigma.

Prosperity - freedom from poverty and a chance to be successful.

Individuality - by having a name and a personal history and by making a difference; having dignity and status.

Relationships - with friends, family and partners.

Recognition - of abilities, capacities and gifts.

Privacy - of records, files and histories; protection from being labeled and the option of living alone.

Citizenship - as part of the community, having a feeling of connectedness, partnership in dreams and beliefs; playing a part in decisions which affect you.

Passion - in advocates and self-advocates to fight and dream together.

Multi-Year Plan

The Multi-Year Plan, published in 1997, builds on the promise of Everyday Lives in terms of goals, recommendations, and action steps. The Multi-Year Plan is a plan for the future which provides a backdrop for recommendations to address the waiting list in Pennsylvania. It included a major goal to realign resources to meet the needs of those on the waiting list. While resource realignment has addressed the need of some people on the waiting list, we have concluded that the realignment of resources alone will not provide sufficient resources to meet the needs of all who are on the waiting list.

Two major goals:

System Reform: restructuring the system to one that is: Consumer-Driven, Values-Based, Outcome-Oriented, and Cost-Efficient.

Resource Realignment: realigning existing resources to meet the needs of those on the waiting list while maintaining necessary supports and services for individuals currently receiving them.