



## CQL Ligas Outreach

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In April 2013, CQL | The Council on Quality and Leadership was awarded a 30-month contract with the Illinois Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) to conduct outreach activities mandated in the *Ligas v. Hamos* Consent Decree. The purpose of the outreach is to maintain a fair and accessible process through which individuals living in private ICFs/DD or their legal guardians can learn about community living options, and choose to receive community-based services, or remain in ICF/DD services.

In 2005, a lawsuit was filed on behalf of individuals seeking community based services in Illinois. In June 2011, a judge approved the Ligas Consent Decree, directing Illinois' DDD to "maintain a fair and accessible process by which individuals with developmental disabilities or their legal guardians can affirmatively request in writing to receive community-based services and/or placement in a community-based setting, or to receive services in an ICF/DD."

CQL is working with the state of Illinois to meet the outreach requirements of the Consent Decree, ensuring that people with developmental disabilities, and their guardians and/or families who are potential *Ligas* class members have the opportunity to receive complete, accurate, and objective information regarding alternative choices for long-term care services. The purpose of the outreach is to share information about the options that are now available to potential class members. Potential class members have an opportunity to consider alternatives but are not obligated to make any changes.

During outreach activities with the potential class members, guardians and supporters, CQL staff will provide information about the Ligas Consent Decree, the rights of potential class members and information about choices for living and receiving services.

During the meeting with potential class members, CQL staff will use a tool, called the Personal Outcome Screening Tool (POST) to learn about how things are going for the person and their priorities. This information will be helpful to the person in making decisions about their choices for living and receiving services. If the person and their guardian choose to receive community-based services, the results of the POST can be used during transition planning.

CQL is an international not for profit organization dedicated to the definition, measurement and improvement of personal quality of life for people receiving human services and supports.

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People interested in learning more about the Ligas Outreach efforts can contact CQL toll free at (866) 662-2225 or (217) 718-4029.