

Attendant Services

Vermont Programs and Independent Living Philosophy

VT SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee Overview for Discussion

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What is Personal Attendant Services?

Services that provide people with disabilities help with “activities of daily living” (ADL)

May include:

- Dressing
- Bathing
- Transferring
- Light Housekeeping
- Meal Prep

Or “Instrumental Activities of Daily Living” (IADL)

May include: use the phone, shop for groceries, meals, managing your medicines, house cleaning, money management/paying bills

Personal Attendants

People providing personal attendant services to individuals with disabilities. Could be family members (paid and volunteers), or a professional.

Independent Living Philosophy

- ▶ People with disabilities can direct their own services
- ▶ “Care” is not a preferred term, but “services and supports” instead
 - ▶ Example: Personal Attendant vs. Personal Care Attendant
 - ▶ Example: Personal Care Services vs. Supports and Services in the home
- ▶ Paying for Personal Attendant Services should not impoverish the person with a disability and they should be able to earn and keep assets to become more financially independent (which is counter to Medicaid provided services)

VT Programs to highlight

- ▶ There are many programs that help support people in their homes- some through Home Health and Hospice, Area Agency on Aging offices and within the Dept of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living. For example: Traumatic Brain Injury Program that helps folks with a TBI live in the community as opposed in residential settings.
- ▶ For today will highlight Choices for Care program, the Participant Directed Attendant Care Program and the Money Follows the Person Program

Participant Directed Attendant Services Program (PDAC)

- ▶ Survey of needs in the 1980s led to report produced by VT Center for Independent Living
- ▶ Creation of PDAC – initially run through Division of Voc Rehab
- ▶ Funded by the General Fund (VT Legislature) – Not Medicaid Dollars
- ▶ Allowed for more flexibility
 - ▶ Family member payments for services
 - ▶ No asset limits for eligibility – allowing for financial independence and growth
 - ▶ People with disabilities direct their own services
- ▶ PDAC program FROZEN since 2014

Choices for Care

- ▶ Medicaid Funded program
- ▶ Pays for In home services, Adult Family Home, Enhanced Residential Care and Nursing Homes
- ▶ Eligible: 65 years or older or 18 and above who has a physical disability.
- ▶ CFC: Flexible Choices
 - ▶ Like PDAC pays for supports and services in the home
 - ▶ Flexible Choices allows for paid family support and individual to direct their own services
 - ▶ Difference: Asset limit of \$2,000 unlike PDAC

Future Projects- Money Follows the Person (new grant cycle)

- ▶ In 2011 DAİL received \$17.9 million from Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
- ▶ Projects to transition people out of nursing homes and into the community
- ▶ Various projects funded through this grant and individual transition dollars. Partnership with Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC), creation of the Adult Family Home program, and others
- ▶ DAİL has applied for a new grant and has been awarded. More details to follow.

Discussion

- ▶ More education?
- ▶ Money Follows the Person Follow up
- ▶ Participant Directed Attendant Services program Advocacy
- ▶ Additional Advocacy?