



Policy No. 102

Long-term Care Guiding Principles

Adopted: January 21, 1994

Long-term care is a family concern. The Washington State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council finds that many people with developmental disabilities and their families require long-term services and supports just as other people in Washington State. The Council estimates that there are 90,000 people who have a functional developmental disability, as defined in Public Law 101-496, in Washington State. Long-term services and supports may be the only means by which many of these people with developmental disabilities, regardless of their age or specific disability, can achieve the goals of living an independent life, having opportunities to be productive, and being included in their communities. Moreover, people with developmental disabilities and their families may require a variety of supports over a lifetime to achieve these goals. The Council recognizes the cultural diversity of people with developmental disabilities and their families and supports the provision of long-term care services within the family, cultural, and community context.

Guiding Principles:

Any system which provides long-term services and supports to people with developmental disabilities and their families must:

Provide full access:

People with developmental disabilities of all ages, and their families must have full and ready access to long-term care services and supports. This should include the full integration of all aspects of the health care and long-term service and support systems.

Utilize functional eligibility criteria:

Eligibility for services must be based on the functional criteria found in Public Law 101-496. (See attachment.)

Provide comprehensive, flexible, and responsive supports:

The needs of people with developmental disabilities and their families must be met through a coordinated comprehensive array of services and supports which would be responsive to changes in peoples' lives and which support individual and family choice of services, consistent with the goals of the American with Disabilities Act; e.g., productivity, independence, integration, and inclusion.

Tailor supports to the needs of the individuals and their families within their family and community structure:

Supports must enable people with developmental disabilities and their families to participate in every aspect of family and community life, in a respectful and empowering manner including being able to access home and community services as readily as they can access out-of-home services.

Assure a stable and secure service system:

People with developmental disabilities, their families, and service providers must be confident that their expectations of the service system will be met.

Contribute to healthy communities:

Communities must be supported and encouraged to promote the cultural integrity of families, so, in turn, they will be able to provide support to their community members who need long-term services and supports.

Be based on an ethic of prevention and early intervention:

Services and supports should be provided in a proactive manner so that people with developmental disabilities and their families are fully supported and increase the potential of avoiding higher costs and more intensive needs at a later time.

Entitle access to personal advocacy:

People with developmental disabilities and their families must have access to personal advocacy services so they will be able to obtain the supports and services they need.

Assure that adequate resources are available while delivering cost effective services and supports:

Sufficient resources must be available so that services and supports are provided in a cost effective manner without sacrificing either the quality of the service or the person or family's quality of life.

Assure high quality services:

Services and supports must be evaluated and monitored on an on-going basis to assure the highest quality. Providers and staff must be adequately paid and trained to provide high quality services.

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