

*Washington State*  
*Developmental Disabilities Council*  
Helping people with developmental disabilities build better lives

Policy No. 112

**Supporting People with Developmental Disabilities in Generic Service Systems**

Adopted: November 19, 1999

The Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council finds that:

- People with developmental disabilities, under the federal definition, are often served by agencies other than the DSHS, Division of Developmental Disabilities. These other agencies may include those in the fields of: aging and adult services, criminal justice, education, foster care, juvenile justice, medical care, mental health, long term care facilities, vocational rehabilitation and other systems.
- Funding for services through the Division of Developmental Disabilities is limited and may be insufficient to provide adequate and appropriate supports to all people with developmental disabilities. People with developmental disabilities will likely need services funded by other systems, or by the community more generically, at various times throughout their lives.
- In light of this reality, people in other systems may be faced with trying to evaluate, support and provide services even if they are not appropriately trained or qualified to do so.

Therefore, it is the position of the Developmental Disabilities Council that the publicly funded systems that do or should support people with developmental disabilities must:

- Provide appropriate support to all people, based on their individual needs and be consistent with the principles of self-determination, regardless of where one receives the services.
- Develop and use professional tools to make initial and early identification of an individual with developmental disabilities, and/or make appropriate referrals to other systems in order to provide better supports/services.
- Assure that staff and providers receive pre-service training, in-service training, or cross system training in effective service provision and coordination.

- Promote an ethic of cooperation, collaboration and consultation among people who provide services and supports regardless of the system that funds them.
- Build the capacity of communities and their generic systems, to support people with developmental disabilities.
- Provide services that are ethnically, culturally, and linguistically appropriate.

Ed Holen, Executive Director  
1-800-634-4473 or (360) 586-3560  
[edh@cted.wa.gov](mailto:edh@cted.wa.gov)