

NO MORE WAITING...

IT'S TIME TO CREATE A 21ST CENTURY PLAN FOR DISABILITY AND AGING

A QUALITY SYSTEM IS:

Person Centered & Self Directed

Community Driven

Solution Focused

Efficient & Innovative

- **No more waiting.** We are all just an accident, heartbeat, or relationship away from a disability or other long term care need. It's time to reform a health & human service system that is broken and fiscally unsustainable.

- **Why now?** Current state and federal budgets are extremely tight and we face an increasingly shaky economy. We must find ways to utilize our health & human service dollars in the most efficient ways possible, while upholding the highest possible standards of quality for those with long term care needs.

- **We know the solutions.** Study after study, family after family, and a statewide network of providers and advocacy organizations have consistently come to the same conclusions when it comes to sensible solutions. We know what the solutions are – and we don't need yet another study that simply puts the real work off yet another day! The solutions for a quality system include:
 - Making Self-Directed Support Options the “standard”, not the exception.
 - An outcome based Quality Assurance standard statewide.
 - Redirecting savings generated by a more efficient system back into the system to improve services and/or serve the growing number of people with long term care needs.
 - Getting rid of burdensome rules and regulations that don't make sense, are inefficient, and do not focus on quality outcomes.

DEFINITIONS

Person Centered Person-centered planning focuses on the person's vision of what they would like to do and accomplish in the future. The individuals with disabilities should help lead the process with their team. Planning through the person-centered process must address all the assessed needs of the person.

Self Directed Support Self-directed support is when the individual with disabilities and his or her team arranges some or all of their (or a family's child's) support instead of receiving directly from service providers. It is for people who would like more flexibility, choice and control over their living arrangements. It is not the name of a particular type of service, but a way to create community supports that better suits you. Annually money is allocated to you to pay for the support you need. We now refer to direct payments as self-directed support because it is controlled by the individual.

Community Driven Community Driven is an approach that gives control over planning decisions and resources to community groups and local governments. Community Driven programs operate on the principles of local empowerment, participatory governance, demand-responsiveness, administrative autonomy, greater downward accountability, and enhanced local capacity. Experience has shown that given clear rules of the game, access to information and appropriate capacity and financial support, citizens can effectively organize in order to identify community priorities and address local problems, by working in partnership with local governments and other supportive institutions.

Solution Focused Solution-focused problem solving asks: What would you prefer instead of the current situation? The focus is on the preferred future. Communities are considered competent and empowered in formulating their own hopes for the future and of devising solutions to make it happen.

Quality Assurance Quality assurance is the process of verifying or determining whether services meet or exceed the individually defined outcomes and expectations of persons with disabilities. Quality assurance is a process-driven approach with specific steps to help define and attain goals. Historically Minnesota has relied on minimum based licensing standards to determine quality in community programs. The new approach will empower individuals receiving services in determining the quality of those services and supports.