



2011-2013

Long Term Care Sustainability

DRAFT - Youth in Transition

Category:	Ensuring the Cost-Effectiveness and Fiscal Sustainability of Wisconsin's Long Term Care (LTC) Programs
Focus Area:	Long Term Care – Youth in Transition
Projected Savings:	TBD
Proposed Implementation Date:	Spring 2012

Description: Develop and maintain community employment and living settings for youth that transition from children's to adult services, and address the needs of families so they can continue to work after their child graduates from school.

Main Message Points

- The transition of young adults with disabilities from high school into the adult service system provides a critical opportunity to support community employment with earnings and community living settings.
 - By establishing a timeline, policies and supports for youth in transition, more cost-effective employment and housing is possible, ensuring the fiscal sustainability of Family Care and IRIS.
 - By focusing on employment first, youth can attain a sense of achievement and purpose and leverage paid employment to support their financial stability (including housing) and their social opportunities.
- The most integrated, community-based, and cost-effective strategies to support youth in transition include options to:
 - Ensure graduation at age 20-21 with a high school diploma and placement in integrated work in the community.
 - Provide support to maintain work, including supported employment services, transportation, and vocational support, utilizing natural supports wherever possible.
 - Incorporate best practices to match youth with positions where they can work independently with the least amount of paid support, using alternative work schedules, as needed, and natural inclusion in the work environment.
 - Ensure the transition to community-based living settings.
- The experience of graduates with developmental disabilities in Dane County in the Spring of 2011 indicates that 29 of 33, or 88%, worked in community employment at a median hourly wage of \$7.25. At 15 hours worked each week, graduates earned an average of \$477 per month. The average cost of a graduate in supported employment with blended funding from LTC and DVR funding totaled \$13,700 per year or \$1,142 per month.
- These provisions are designed to support youth in transition to develop the skills needed to achieve community connections, employment and living arrangements that are the least restrictive/most inclusive settings possible.

Proposed Modifications

1. **Establish Policy Guidelines and Criteria to Promote Community Employment and Living.** For youth in transition (ages 18 – 25 years) in Family Care and IRIS focus first on ensuring community employment and supports to live at home with one's family, and subsequently develop options to ensure housing in the community. Specify that the LTC service package include:
 - **Employment-related services**
 - Service coordination
 - Self-directed support broker services
 - Customized and supported employment services
 - Futures planning

- Job coaching
 - Assistive technology and home modifications, when necessary for employment and community participation
 - Daily living skills training
 - Consumer education and training
 - Non-medical transportation for school and work and community participation (leveraging natural supports)
 - **Family Support-related services**
 - Consumer/family education and training
 - Respite care
 - Supportive home care
 - **Medicaid card services**, to the extent such services are allowable.
 - **Utilization of Services from DVR, DPI, and schools** to assess, plan and develop community employment options prior to graduation and as youth transition from school to adult services.
2. **Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) Pilot.** Establish a statewide pilot program to support community-based employment to leverage 80% federal matching funds and the infrastructure and programming in DVR for integrated employment to prioritize services for youth with disabilities in Family Care and IRIS.
3. **School Services, Counseling, and Career Planning.**
- Encourage youth with disabilities to access public school benefits to which they are entitled to between the ages of 18 – 21 years of age.
 - Expand and promote disability and work incentive benefits counseling so that youth with disabilities and their families are aware of the opportunities for being employed while retaining access to important public benefits.
 - Develop career planning tools that staff in the Children’s Long-Term Care system can use in working with families to develop an early expectation and vision for paid work in the community.
 - Provide family-oriented training on the transition process and facilitation of skills development for their youth.
 - Expand, publicize and promote disability benefits counseling for youth in transition.
 - Explore incentives to providers to promote more integrated and cost-effective community outcomes.
4. **“Let’s Get to Work” Grant.** Leverage \$1.8 million over five years in recently-approved grant funding to the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities, with the support of DHS, DVR, DPI and numerous stakeholders to develop and implement provisions to initiate statewide school pilot sites to test a set of evidence-based practices to expand competitive employment in community settings and to disseminate policies and practices based on the pilots.

Effect of this change:

- Utilize the most integrated, community-based, and cost-effective living and employment settings for youth in transition.
- Focus first on employment for youth leaving school, using earnings to support living expenses.
- Through a pilot with DVR, negotiate a statewide rate to contribute the full amount allowed for youth in transition to support the move from school to paid employment.