

TMCSEA

TAZEWELL-MASON COUNTIES SPECIAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

TO: SCHRAMM/ROBEIN FAMILY MEMBERS AND CAREGIVERS
FROM: TRACY HEER
SUBJECT: THE ADULT AND CHILDREN'S HOME-BASED SUPPORT SERVICES WAIVER
DATE: 11/17/2011

The Adult and Children's Home-Based Support Services Waiver provides families with an "allowance" of services and providers to assist with any services that are above and beyond those found in schools. These services include, but are not limited to: personal care, OT, Speech Therapy, behavior therapy, home modifications and assistive technology. There is NO INCOME CAP for these services. When your family is approved for services, a service facilitator helps you with a "SERVICE PLAN" which includes goals for learning, social opportunities and accessing services that exist for people with disabilities.

To participate in this program, a family MUST contact CISA and request an INTAKE. A case manager will then contact the family to complete an application and be enrolled on a database called PUNS. Once a family is placed into this database, they are placed on a waiting list where they are categorized according to different priorities. Those with the highest priority include homelessness, abuse or neglect. After that, other items are used to determine priority. At each "level" of priority, names are selected at random.

To receive services, a family MUST be enrolled in either Medicaid or ALL KIDS (which CISA can also help with).

At this time, the waiting list is of UNKNOWN length. It is VITAL that you contact CISA if you are not already enrolled in the PUNS so that you can get into the database. If you begin services as a child (under age 18), you will automatically transition into Adult Home-Based Support Services.

Some statistics that are concerning:

- only 65% of people on the list are receiving services
- only 1000 new participants are being accepted this year into the program
- every year will be different because of funding changes made by legislators

This is an opportunity for you to contact your state legislators. If you need help finding out who to contact, call me at 347-5164 and I'll get you that information. Let them know that our kids deserve to have every opportunity and service that is available and that a lengthy waiting list is unacceptable.

Some resources for you:

CISA : (new address/phone) 202 Madigan Drive, Lincoln, IL, 217-732-4731

Family Support Network: www.familysupportnetwork.org, 309-693-8981

Illinois Life Span: www.illinoislifespan.org, 1-800-588-7002

Both of the above listed websites have TONS of information about the PUNS and other resources available to individuals with disabilities.