

**JANUARY 2005**

## **ESTABLISHING THE COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN WITH LONG-TERM SUPPORT NEEDS**

Wisconsin has nearly 10,000 children with disabilities resulting in long-term support needs. Children with disabilities that occur during their developmental period frequently have severe impairments that are likely to continue indefinitely; and often require lifelong services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance. These children also have capabilities and competencies, and make a contribution to the community, particularly in cases in which children and their families are provided with necessary services, supports, and other assistance. Children need the opportunity to live, learn, and participate in all aspects of community life.

Family members, friends, and members of the community play a central and important role in enhancing the lives of children with long-term support needs.

The Council for Children with Long-Term Support Needs (CLTS) is charged with providing recommendations to the Secretary regarding the needed infrastructures, accountability measures and mechanisms, financing systems, training programs, and program design elements necessary to implement service delivery systems in communities throughout the State to provide services, supports, and other assistance that address the needs of children with long-term support needs and their families who want to live, learn, and participate in all aspects of community life.

### **Section 1. Establishment of the Council for Children with Long-Term Support Needs**

The Council for CLTS shall consist of 25 voting members appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Family Services. A majority of these members will be parents who reflect the diversity of the state and whose children have diverse long-term support needs; the membership will also include consumers of the children's long-term support system; advocacy agencies; counties; other state departments; and provider agencies. Key Department staff will be appointed as non-voting members of the Council.

The Secretary shall appoint a chairperson of the Council for CLTS, who shall report on a regular basis regarding the progress of the Council for CLTS and action steps needed to implement the Council's recommendations. Council memberships shall be on a rotation of two and three year terms.

Council for CLTS shall meet at least quarterly, and more frequently when necessary.

### **Section 2. Mission of the Council.**

The purpose of the Council for CLTS is to promote the vision and principles for a system of supports for children with disabilities, from birth to 21 years of age, and their families as described by the Children's Committee on Long-Term Support Redesign in the paper: *A Foundation for a System of Long-term Support for Wisconsin Children and Families* (12/98). The Council will advise the DHFS on the goals and strategies for implementing statewide services and supports for children with disabilities and their families. This will be accomplished through the development of initiatives

in each of the five core areas identified in this paper, including: access, choice, coordination, quality and financing. The Secretary charges the Council for CLTS with the mission to propose action oriented strategies, including policies, practices, and procedures, designed to coordinate the provision of long-term supports and services for children and families in the State of Wisconsin consistent with these values and principles.

The Secretary requires that the recommendations of the Council for design, implementation and evaluation of programs, projects, and activities shall be in accordance with Federal and State law, including the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, the Rehabilitation Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Title XIX of the Social Security Act (Medicaid), and relevant Chapters of the State of Wisconsin Administrative Code.

### **Section 3. Responsibilities of the Council.**

The Council for CLTS shall develop and recommend to the Secretary comprehensive state policies related to the following areas:

- **Access:** Advise the Department on eligibility determination policies, procedures and tools. Advise the Department on the development of an information, assistance and advocacy resource for families. Advise the Department on ensuring access to all families in Wisconsin, including rural and urban families, as well as families from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds.
- **Choice:** Advise the Department on the policies and procedures needed to implement family-directed services and supports. Advise the Department on policies and procedures that respect individual child and family dignity, preference and culture.
- **Coordination:** Advise the Department on the coordination of services between Medicaid state plan services, Children with Special Health Care Needs and the CLTS system. Propose strategies to streamline the governance of programs affecting children with long-term support needs to ensure coordination and collaboration. Monitor changes at the state or federal level in Medicaid benefits and eligibility for impact on children with disabilities.
- **Quality:** Advise the Department on a quality assurance and improvement process for analyzing the experience of children and families with the system and service system outcomes. Assist in the development of outcomes-based contracts. Advise the Department on strategies to improve the capacity and capabilities of children and families, agency personnel and service providers including training and technical assistance plans. Advise the Department on strategies for describing how success is measured for quality, cost-effectiveness, and inclusive community living. Create procedures for families, agencies and providers to use this data to continuously improve the system including data collection, budget decision tools, systems for monitoring and tracking performance, and systems to analyze the information and modify strategies to improve performance. Advise the Department on strategies to promote individual outcome measures.
- **Financing:** Advise the Department on the implementation of the CLTS Waivers, the Family Support Program, and other long-term supports and services. Advise the Department on plans to reduce the waiting lists for long-term supports and increase access to community supports and services. Advise the Department on systems of financing services and supports, including rate structures and reimbursement rates that facilitate community services.