



Community Supports Fact Sheet

Deinstitutionalization has been taking place in the United States for over three decades. In the 1990s alone there was a 44 percent decline in the number of people in state-operated institutions. Potential cost savings did not drive these reductions. These institutions closed and others continue to close because it is the right thing to do.

In FY 2004, Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) funds 22,000 persons with developmental disabilities in a comprehensive array of home and community-based supports. These include in-home family support, daytime therapeutic and medical day care programs, employment and supported employment, respite care, and out-of-home residential services ranging from a few hours a day to 24-hour awake, overnight staff. Nearly 11,000 people are on the Waiting List for community services.

The 22,000 people receiving DDA-funded community services comprise a wide range of ages, family situations, and level and type of disability. Some individuals need a few hours a week to help them live independently and keep a job. Others receive intensive medical interventions, life-sustaining therapies and technologies, ongoing therapeutic services like physical therapy, and emergency medical support.

Quality of Life

Community living affords greater opportunities for full participation in the social and economic life of our communities, is effective and yields demonstrably greater benefits for individual with disabilities than institutional careⁱ.



People living in community-based residences had larger social networks than did people living in state-operated residential campuses... People living in community-based residences had more people...in their social networks than did people living in state-operated residential programs.ⁱⁱ

Research overwhelmingly demonstrates that the vast majority of individuals are living fuller, more socially interactive, productive, and independent lives in their communities than those in institutions when supported by competent staff and receive appropriate supports.ⁱⁱⁱ

Parent's views – Prior to community placement, many parents oppose community placement for their son/daughter. However, following placement, surveys report increased satisfaction and support for community placement for their loved one.^{iv}

Market Demand

13,811 people are on DDA's Waiting List for services and have requested over 23,000 community services.^v They want services in their local communities, where their loved ones can be close to family and friends. There is a question of fairness when "choice" is used to justify the most costly services in institutions, while others have nothing.

Invest in Services not Buildings

There is nothing magical about the services provided within the four walls of an institution that cannot be provided in a community program that is smaller and more like a real home.

The cost of physically maintaining institutions is inordinately expensive given the number of people who benefit. For example, \$4.3M proposed in 2003 to update one institution's electrical system averages over \$20,000 per person living there.^{vi}

\$4.3M could buy:

- Community services (including residential, day and resource coordination) for one person on the waiting list for 62 years. Or one year of service for 62 people.^{vii}
- Intensive community services for a person with significant, multiple needs for 31 years.^{viii}

ⁱ Lakin, K.C. (1999). *A review of literature of home and community services for persons with mental retardation and related conditions*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, Research and Training center on Community Living, Institute on Community Integration.

ⁱⁱ *Social Networks of People with Mental Retardation in Residential Settings*. Robertson, J. et al. June 2001. Mental Retardation – American Association on Mental Retardation.

ⁱⁱⁱ *Status and Changes in Medicaid's Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded: Results from Analysis of the Online Survey Certification and Reporting System*; Larson, S.A. and Lakin, K. Charlie. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, Center on Residential Services and Community Living/Institute on Community Integration, 1995.

^{iv} Conroy, J. & Bradley, V. *The Pennhurst Longitudinal Study: A Report of Five Years of Research and Analysis* (1985). Temple University, Philadelphia, PA.

^v Source: DDA, October 2004

^{vi} \$4,300,000 divided by 213 people (average client population at that institution) = \$20,188

^{vii} Average cost of community services = \$68,669 (source: DDA budget, FY2004)

^{viii} Based on the average cost of institutional care = \$137,595 (source DDA budget, FY2004)



MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION

People on the Go of Maryland • The Arc of Maryland

Maryland Association of Community Services

Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council • Maryland Disability Law Center