



Survival Coalition

of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

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To: Members, Joint Finance Committee

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Subject: Recommended Alternatives in Legislative Fiscal Bureau Papers #359 and #361

The Survival Coalition of more than 30 disability organizations has reviewed the Legislative Fiscal Bureau's papers on Children's Community Options Program (#359) and Children's Long-Term Care Services (#361). Survival Coalition recommends the following to assure that Wisconsin's investment in long-term supports to families and children with significant disabilities continues to keep children with their families and in their own homes and communities:

**Alternative 1-A-F and H; Modify 1-G in paper #359
Alternatives A-1; B-1; C-4 in paper #361**

Children COP (#359)

Survival supports **alternative 1-A-F and H and modify 1-G** to add "If a county is unwilling or unable to administer the program," the [Department may contract with a private nonprofit agency for service this section. The agency shall have powers and duties under this section of a county department designated to administer the program]. Counties currently administer and coordinate multiple programs under children's long-term supports and services unless, in a few circumstances, counties have chosen not to do so. We support the continued involvement of counties and the accountability of counties to local taxpayers in the provision of children's LTS programs.

LFB states that "the consolidation of the two programs is intended to ease service provision at the county level. Counties are currently responsible for offering children's services under multiple programs, which entails developing care plans and conducting assessments for children that may enroll in several programs concurrently. Additionally, counties are required to maintain the administrative structures required under both programs, including advisory

committees for both programs. This provision is intended to simply these processes for counties, while allowing children the same services provided under the current programs”.

Children’s Long-Term Care Services (#361)

Survival strongly supports alternatives A-1 and B-1 currently proposed by the Governor. **Alternative C-4** provides an option to reduce waiting lists by 150 children currently eligible for CLTS and autism services. 2200 children who are eligible, those with the most significant disabilities, can wait years for supports. LFB points out that the “Funding for CLTS services is budgeted on a "sum certain" basis within the total MA benefits budget. Because children who meet the functional and financial eligibility requirements are not entitled to receive CLTS services, counties that receive CLTS funding allocations may maintain waitlists for these services. As of December, 2014, approximately 2,200 children were on waitlists for these long-term care services”.

Survival looks forward to working with members of the Joint Committee on Finance and DHS to assure these changes to children’s long-term supports programs are effective, efficient and improve the lives of children and their families.

Survival Coalition Issue Teams: education, employment, housing, long term care for adults, long term care for children, mental health, transportation, workforce, voting, Medicaid and health care.

Real Lives, Real Work, Real Smart,
Wisconsin Investing in People with Disabilities