

**Senate Finance Committee**  
**SB-796-Developmental Disabilities Administration**  
**Program Changes Required Reports**  
**Testimony Submitted by Rick Callahan**  
**Position-Support**

Good afternoon Madam Chair and members of the committee. My name is Rick Callahan, and I am the Executive Director of Compass, Inc. Compass supports to 200 people with developmental disabilities in Montgomery, Prince George, Howard, and Charles Counties. Compass has three individuals in the LTSS pilot program.

I am a member of the Technical Rate Study group, LTSS transformation group, The Department of Health LTSS transformation workgroup, and LTSS pilot group.

Secretary Robert Neall spoke at the DD-budget hearing last week, and he stated in his testimony that the changes that DDA is going through are exceptionally complicated and, "We Must Get It Right."

The DDA providers agree to this statement, and this is why I am here today.

This field has not seen this type of change in over 30 years. Some of these historical changes are:

1. New service definitions
2. Rate study with new rates
3. Change from prospective payment to retrospective billing
4. A new billing and data management system, LTSS
5. Person Center Planning with service authorization
6. New policies and procedures
7. New audit requirements

One of the essential elements of this transformation is the completion of an Impact Analysis.

The impact analysis will include:

The impact of new service definitions and the complexity of assuring the right services will be identified in the Person Center Plan

The impact on how the service definition policies and guidelines will affect the utilization of services received. Thus, it could lead to reduced billing, but not necessarily an associated reduction of operational costs.

The impact of rates, rates are changing from days to hours, 15-minute increments, milestones, upper pay limits, to mention just a few.

The impact on the increased costs to meet new audit requirements.

The impact on training an entire DSP workforce to transition from facility-based services to Community based services.

The impact costs associated with the acquisition, development, and onboarding new technology to meet these transformational changes.

In order to complete the Impact Analysis, the rates have to be finalized with an opportunity to modify.

The service definition policy and guidelines must be finalized

The audit requirements must be public with an opportunity to have input from key stakeholders.

We must have mock service delivery scenarios that are associated with the different service definitions and their corresponding policy and guidelines.

We must give providers enough time to be trained make organizational changes, hire new staff, conduct financial analyses, and develop the technology infrastructure needed to be successful.

Community providers are willing partners with DDA. We want to make this work, and this legislation will help make this possible. I urge a favorable report.

Thank you