

House Health and Government Operations Committee

HB 984 - Developmental Disabilities Administration

Program Changes Required Reports

Testimony Submitted by Rick Callahan

Position-Support

My name is Rick Callahan, and I am the Executive Director of Compass, Inc. Compass is a non-profit agency supporting close to 200 individuals with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) in Montgomery, Prince George, Howard, and Charles Counties.

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."

This is so true. This field has not seen this type of change in over 30 years, including: This change has lead to unbelievable changes;

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

We must complete a very thorough Impact Analysis for all providers

We must analyze this impact for each service type.

Based on this impact, we must make changes in order that no harm comes to the individuals we support.

In order to complete the Impact Analysis we must:

- finalize the rates
- finalize the policies concerning these rates including
 1. Rounding rules
 2. Audit requirement
 3. Provider Billing documentation
 4. Accessing dedicated supports
 5. When a service begins and ends.

- finalize the procedures/guidelines concerning these policies
- develop service delivery scenarios that reflect these policies and procedures/guidelines.
- have training for all providers regarding these policies, procedures/guidelines, and service delivery scenarios.
- 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 that possible. I urge a favorable report. Thank you.