

SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE
Monday, January 25, 2016

ATTACHMENT 3

**MEDICAID ENHANCED PLAN BENEFITS
HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES (HCBS)**

DOCKET NO. 16-0310-1501

NOTICE OF RULEMAKING - ADOPTION OF PENDING RULE

This letter of support for Docket 16-0310-1501 is presented on behalf of the members of Vocational Services of Idaho (VSI). VSI represents community vocational service providers from throughout the state. The positive result of implementing these new rules is well stated in the Notice of Rule Making descriptive summary, which reads, in part:

"The purpose of the regulations is to enhance participants' opportunity to receive services in the most integrated settings appropriate, and to increase their opportunities for choice and access to the benefits of community living. New rules pertaining to Home and Community Based Services are being added to this chapter to ensure that participants receiving HCBS live in and receive services in settings that comply with required qualities of settings, service delivery methods, and person-centered planning processes. "

In real life this means people with disabilities will have better opportunities to be included in their communities. This will be accomplished in several ways but primarily by offering individuals more choice and control in their own lives.

Specifically changes include:

- The person Centered Planning Process will truly focus on the person with very clear guidelines on how decisions are made and by who.
- Community based settings are clearly defined including five required qualities. These qualities include:
 - a. Full access to the person's community including their decisions on how they spend their time.
 - b. Settings, for services and activities, are selected by the individual and are based on their own preferences.
 - c. The person's rights of privacy, dignity and respect are honored.
 - d. Independence in making choices is encouraged.
 - e. The opportunity for individual choices is supported by the settings.

From our perspective, as providers of vocational opportunities, we see this as major step towards an "Employment First Model" where everyone has the opportunity to work and be productive in their own community.

Thank You.

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