



# Reform and Redesign of Disability Services

January 26, 2011

*Learn Your Rights,  
Preserve Your Independence*



MINNESOTA

**Consortium**

FOR CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES

# About the MN-CCD



The Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities is a broad-based disability coalition comprised of over fifty dues paying member organizations, including advocacy and provider organizations, dedicated to improving the lives of Minnesotans with disabilities. We address public policy issues that impact people with disabilities by collaborating with others, advocating, educating, influencing change and creating awareness for understanding.

**Visit us at:**

**[www.mnccd.org](http://www.mnccd.org)**

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# Legislative Principles



## **Minnesota is committed to community living, not institution- based services**

Recognizing that home and community based services cost less, provide more independence and are required by law, Minnesota has led the nation in getting people out of institutions and into communities.

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# Consumer Profile



**Jeff Riebe**

**Diagnosis:** Traumatic Brain Injury

**Age When Started Services:** 41

**Current Home:** Golden Valley, MN

**Services Received:** Transitional Rehabilitation Program- physical, occupational, and speech therapies, Mental Health, Community Reintegration Program, Fitness

**Outcomes:** Living in the community, volunteering

# Key Initiatives



- Disability Services Division
- Cost of Disability Services
- ARRM's Transformation Initiative
- “My Life – My Choices” LSS
- Health Care
- Comprehensive Medicaid Reform

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# Legislative Principles



**Long term reforms to our system are needed to solve our current budget crisis**

System reforms giving people self-direction and control over the resources they qualify to receive are vital so that the most is made out of every dollar spent on disability services.

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# Consumer Profile



**Nathan  
Bauer**

**Diagnosis:** Developmental Disability

**Age When Started Services:** 31

**Home:** Richfield, MN

**Services Received:** Housing Access Services

**Outcomes:** Moved from a group home to his own home, increased independence, privacy, self confidence and personal responsibility

# Long Term Services & Supports Redesign (Build a Life)



- Consumer Direction
- Housing
- Case Management
- Quality Assurance
- County & State Redesign

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# Legislative Principles



## Breakdown Barriers to Employment

The rate of unemployment for people with disabilities is over 50%. Assisting people with barriers to employment in accessing and maintaining jobs helps enhance independence and reduces costs to the state. Programs like Disability Benefits 101 can help maximize this potential.

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# Consumer Profile



**Peter Riggs**

**Diagnosis:** ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease)

**Age When Started Services:** 54

**Current Home:** Minneapolis, MN

**Services Received:** Vocational Services – assistive technology assessment, computer assessment and training; job placement assistance

**Outcomes:** Returned to work

# Long Term Services and Supports Reform



- Current System is Unsustainable
- Care Coordination
- Health Care Homes
- PCA Alternatives
- Transportation

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# Legislative Principles



## Disability services have been cut

The disability community has endured deep cuts to their programs and services in recent history, including hundreds of millions of dollars in cuts since 2002.

These cuts have left an unstable system of supports for individuals with disabilities, and have also been ineffective in solving rising health and human services costs as they pass greater costs on to other budget areas.

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# Consumer Profile



**Susan  
Johnson**

**Diagnosis:** Traumatic Brain Injury

**Age When Started Service:** 54

**Home:** Isanti, MN

**Services Received:** Occupational, physical and speech therapies, Aquatics therapy

**Outcomes:** Improved memory, organization, sequencing capabilities

# Next Steps for Reform and Redesign



- Disability Legislative Reforms
- Stakeholder involvement in developing long-term solutions for Medicaid in MN
- “My Life ...My Choices” – consumer direction as the normal way of doing business
- Health Care Reform Not Managed Care

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# Legislative Principles



## Elimination of programs & services does not eliminate needs

The needs of vulnerable Minnesotans have become more acute during the economic crisis. Continued reductions to vital services such as rehabilitation therapies will result in costs being passed on to Minnesota taxpayers in many other areas of the state budget, all at a much higher rate. For example, cutting Personal Care Assistant services will lead to more expensive institutional care.

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# Consumer Profile



**Jake Rotz**

**Diagnosis:** Traumatic Brain Injury

**Age When Started Services:** 21

**Home:** Buffalo, MN

**Services Received:** Transitional Rehabilitation Program- physical, occupational, cognitive and speech therapies

**Outcomes:** Regaining speech and movement functionality following brain injury and 5-week coma, this progress would have been impossible without services listed above



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