

To: RhodeIsland1115Waiver

Subject: I am shocked at the effort of RI to continue to diminish disability access

7/27/2013

I hope the US agencies will require a further revision in RI's effort to reduce benefits + costs by RI efforts in creating more difficult roadblocks to existing and new recipients especially to be in community based vs institutionalized care.

As a Commissioner for the RI Governors Commission on Disabilities, our Public Forums confirmed the plight of prior complaints + hearsay of wrong forms + information, unfair assessments, no returned phone calls + rejections without info on even appeals processes.

Agency budgets + reimbursements have been slashed + yet this new request seems to be couched in language that seem to allow for more disasters ahead for those most in need.

Parents getting older + unable to care for their 30 + 49 year old kids in need of support. Group homes or shared living mismatched or closed opportunities. Unfair Assessment Tests being the only test/guide to placement or supports. Respite help being slashed so parents will have to be the full time caregivers + give up jobs + perhaps go on medicaid too.

I am shocked as RI used to be the state with a heart, has turned to great words that mean nothing in action especially with the latest request for 1115 waiver extension.

I would request a wholesale revision in the language for action steps to bring RI into compliance with needs of those people with disabilities vs the convenience of RI agency "wordsmithing" the real slash in services.

Arthur Plitt
Pawtucket RI
Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T