

SUMMARY OF QUALITY PAPER

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The present bureaucracy and massive regulations associated with the Medicaid long term care program is a reflection of its creation as a medical program in answer to the problems of the 1950s and 60's. The introduction and growth of the Waiver program is the only important initiative that reflects some of progress over the last sixty years. However, whether we bring this program into the 21st century or not, there is no time to waste in targeting quality of life as the first and most important reform in an effort that could positively affect individuals today and help create a pathway to the future.

CONTEMPORARY QUALITY STANDARDS

Current quality assurance programs are based on the services rendered to individuals and not on the personal outcomes desired by the individual that mirror in most respects those of all citizens. These programs then make impossible the achievement of universal aspirations for individuals of all ages with disabilities; they posit service standards for quality seriously below and out of sync with the quality of life standards that all Americans desire, in essence creating second-class citizens.

THE FUTURE

Self-Determination assumes a minimum of four goals and standards which reflect universal human aspirations and are excellent examples for grounding quality on the lives of those served; and not on features of the present system, which reflects the industrial and corporate standards of consumer satisfaction with the product of human services:

- A place to call home with control over who enters for any purpose
- Real membership in the community
- The preservation or development of strong relationships
- Planning to avoid or emerge from personal impoverishment

These four universal goals can form the foundation of a new quality assurance system, benefit the rewriting of Medicaid services and supports, and serve as a partial template for planning a meaningful life and developing a budget that assists in attaining that life.

Using Section 1115 of the Social Security Act, these large non-categorical demonstrations will unleash the creativity that has been buried in the past and the regulations of the present. The vague and unrealistic notion of *person-centered* planning will be supplanted by *person-directed* planning and budgeting, and the systems change carried out with disability leaders as full partners.