



January 28, 2016

Worst-Case Scenarios Can Be Avoided if Revenue is Found

Yesterday the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) announced two options that would cut \$131 Million in state funds from DHH's budget to address the current fiscal year's budget shortfall. One of those proposals includes the elimination of all home and community-based waiver services in the state. Both of the options are described in the press release as "worst-case scenarios" by DHH Secretary Rebekah E. Gee, MD, MPH, who said the cuts "**would only be implemented if the Legislature failed to find additional revenues to address this year's anticipated shortfall.**"

Option two is most upsetting to people with disabilities and their families. It calls for the ELIMINATION of all optional Medicaid programs, including the following:

- All four waivers for people with developmental disabilities impacting 11,678 current recipients (NOW, Children's Choice, Supports Waiver, ROW)
- Both waivers for seniors and people with adult-onset disabilities impacting 6,481 current recipients (Community Choices and Adult Day Health Care)
- Medicaid Long Term Personal Care Services impacting 17,300 current recipients
- Intermediate Care Facilities for People with Developmental Disabilities impacting 4,914 current residents
- Other eliminated programs in the proposal can be found in the full press release below.

People with disabilities and their families are understandably very worried about DHH's proposal, but it's important that everyone know that these, and any other cuts, **CAN BE AVOIDED** if **sufficient** revenue is raised by the legislature during the upcoming Special Session. If you care about these services, talk to your legislators now. The Special Session is expected to begin on February 14, 2016.

Individuals and families have asked the Council for talking points when speaking with legislators on this issue. There are only two:

- Factual information – additional revenue must be raised in the special session to avoid the cuts described in the press release.
- Personal story – share how these cuts (and ANY cuts to programs for people with developmental disabilities) would affect you and your family.

To see the full list and explanation of the proposed cuts read the DHH [press release](#).

For assistance in contacting your legislator, contact the [LaCAN Leader](#) in your region.