

Additional comments:

Safe psychiatric hospitals

Employment providers should receive less money for assessment and more money for placement. The current practice allows them to collect dollars for multiple assessments; however, the agency either loses interest or is not incentivized to follow through with placement.

Families of Individual with disabilities need more training on how to assist students with behavior or mental health concerns. Ex: Classes that help parents assist/manage student's behavior or mental health, teaching coping skills

Pull-ups that are paid for by the state should be whatever the patient uses. Not a subpar product that causes them to have accidents in public causing them to never want to leave their homes. Any amount of the better product is a help to the family, instead of mass amounts of something they can't use.

My daughter did waiver as a child. Currently, she is getting what she needs at ICF. Please don't fight on this issue during next 5 years. Allow her what she specifically needs. Others - I wish they get what they need too.

Special Ed school buses require special Ed kids to catch the bus earlier than other children and they get home later than others causing them to have a ten hour day. Too long for them. Come home exhausted

Medicaid offers EPSDT, however, I've been trying to get my kids EPSDT case staffed for over a year! OCDD sun screen gave us a 0 because they said "Medicaid EPSDT services meet your needs". But they don't! Please help!

On-going support for individuals who need durable medical equipment and adequate follow through to ensure that the equipment meets the individual needs.

Services for elderly individuals needs to be a priority

A more tailored educational plan that fits the individual, focusing on strengths and weaknesses.

Helping to find ways for provider agencies to hire enough staff and get them properly trained to provide quality care to persons with disabilities

Employers need training that is readily available to them, not just someone to go in and work with the individual.

Transitioning from high school to college/employment could definitely be improved with additional training and resources to better equip the students to become successfully employed.

Discrimination and retaliation by behavioral health providers, lack of higher level professional providers (PhDs and MDs) in programs/services for DD and throughout state behavioral health services

Need more activities for adults with severe intellectual disabilities that are out of high school. Need higher pay and training for direct support workers. Possibly creating a disability Caregiver associates degree partnering with Community colleges to give extensive training where the job would pay more and the care would be better with this increased training and education.

We were turned down for eye gaze over 10 years back. We're finally back in speech therapy seeking the best device. I feel that a speech device specialist should be available and included in the decision which will ultimately determine our daughter's communications future

There needs to be housing and recreational activities for adults with disabilities in populated areas, not out in rural areas. There needs to be good jobs, not limited to retail and fast food.

The pro who are to help the teacher do not have any education or know about autism. They put in for a job that they think they know about. Don't think they need job training, or a worked some were in school or just need a job. And think they are doing a good job, which they can be doing, but I still think some off the street is now who is not a person I want helping with my child. The same as the teacher, a legal license.to be a care helper.

ADA and Olmstead LAW are often neglected or overlooked by ill-informed parish/local authorities.

Yes! Outside agencies who inform families of public speaking or knowledge of specific meetings, do not follow up with families in their own region. It's like they get what they need and brush a family to the side. They got what they needed... on to the next story or family. Also, it would help if better wording was used for gathering testimonies. Instead of saying "to approve" your testimony... use different, more compassionate communication. It's already hard enough having to re-live the trauma speaking about it. Be nice to waitresses when visiting the town a family lives in over a couple packs of Splenda, and stop calling all these high level dudes "YUMMY", especially if you're married yourself. It's gross.... Lastly, when FHF has a meeting, and expect a good group to show... not every family leaves their kids with someone or can't. Better preparation for more space to accommodate would be awesome! When an adult pretends to almost run over a tiny child in a small space... it's unacceptable. It absolutely looked intentionally done. Luckily no one was hurt, but the harassment from the office director was too much. All to make sure a report wasn't made. It wasn't... but couldn't even move forward from it due to harassment of making sure no report was being filed. That's all. Thanks for listening.

To encourage to receive medical releases is important for all parent(s) who want their child/children to receive better income. Better pay and reinforce for anyone who is in need of public transportation in New Iberia, LA. A greater respect to encourage for at-home classes to educate/ promote adversity to finish online classes from home. To keep reinforcing and to implement a task related programs to use all professional speakers for anyone who needs positive reinforcement. We need more professional speakers in Louisiana. Get more responsible resources in: liability, compensation, and extended pay for PWD to find and get more resources to a paid job. For all people with disabilities all around NOT only in Louisiana. Less positive resources cause less stress. To re-encourage all types of people who can't afford a home or even more as in transportation, access to see a better life for anyone.

PRN in home support. I am my adult daughters fulltime caregiver. Occasionally I need someone to watch her for a few hours while I attend a meeting or event. I don't need someone every day. There is nothing available for a situation like this. It would be great to have temporary help when I need it.

Connecting families who also have a loved one that they care for to share ideas and support each other.

For profit agencies need to be audited every 2 years by an independent agency. Someone should speak with Dr's that deal with for profit agencies to see what is happening behind the scenes.

There is dire need of condo communities that have waivers for disabled adults. Offering affordable housing for adults with disabilities only. There are disabled adults who do not feel safe where they live, but only can afford so much on SSI or SSD. There are disabled adults who have been on the section 8 voucher for 7-8 years. Most disabled adults do not have any natural support. It is hard for disabled adults in wheelchairs to get transportation to see a doctor. There is not enough vehicles that are adapted for disabled adults in wheelchairs. They can never made it to see a doctor. There is not much entertainment or gathers for disabled adults. Most of them do not even have a friend, since they can not meet other disabled adults in the community. I think even every month, there should be gatherings for a cookout, games or movie night. Disabled adults face barriers when it comes to behavioral health doctors or services. There is a lack of doctors or services that will help.

It was difficult to just pick 3 items or to prioritize one over another because all of them are areas that need to be addressed for individuals with disabilities.

Educating families and care workers the importance of healthy diet and exercise.

Individuals with disabilities deserve a meaningful voice in shaping the systems that impact their lives — especially healthcare, job training, and employment opportunities. Too often, decisions are made without truly listening to the lived experiences of those directly affected. Empowering people with disabilities to share their insights not only leads to more inclusive and effective services, but also honors their autonomy, dignity, and unique perspectives. Nothing about us, without us.

Lack of competent staff in the system...especially DSPs and SCs; high turnover

Continue to grow, coordinate, and increase ongoing funding for young adults with disabilities exiting public school programming.

A one-stop place for families to contact that they can inquire about all the different agencies that assist those with disabilities. Very hard to navigate through the government bureaucracy to get what your family member needs.

Working while disable and getting income base housing assistance with court cost in family law giving disable parents help fighting for a fair chance to be parents while having mental health issues like bipolar Addiction, schizophrenia. Having chronic relapse prevention. Helping unite. Mother and child as well as father and child having a good co-parenting program.

Those receiving private duty nursing through Medicaid get funding cut when they turn 21 and move to the NOW or ROW.

More support and commitment from agencies to providing COMMUNITY services (SILc for those with severe physical and intellectual disabilities. Tightening up the ability for agencies to “drop” clients without extensive intervention of a multi experienced team, example: OT, PY, Rn, Mental health professional, etc.)

Enough affordable socialization activities

How can we upgrade home so that people with disabilities can stay with or near their families.

I'd like support with transforming my garage into an apartment for my son. Not that I'm asking for full funding but are we connected to people who will help with this?

Access to doctors and healthcare professionals in general. The lack of professionals leads to fewer accepting Medicaid and an increase in prices.

Difficulties addressing diagnosis and resources for people identified as developmentally delayed as a young adult

Professionals in the DD Field are not trained in best practices Direct Support Workers need higher wages Waiver providers need to put more of their reimbursement rate toward DSW wages. OCDD needs leadership that is more interested in resolving problems on behalf of the families instead of being a bureaucratic barrier to services.

I think that partnerships with agencies like the LSU AgCenter who provides direct nutrition education to adults with disabilities is very important in planning and improving the overall outcomes in the adults with disabilities community. They work with both caregivers and the special needs clients.

Prevention of abuse/neglect, knowledge about the difference between healthy and unhealthy relationships

College disability assistance services need to include job placement for disabled students after graduation!

Agencies that provide services need regular oversight, accountability and investigation to assure those most vulnerable are not abused and taken advantage of by those paid to protect and serve them.

I wanted to include housing as well - affordable, safe housing.

Finding better homes for adults with disabilities and not having very high rent

There are no special ED teachers who are trained in Asperger's (Autism)

My concerns are focused on two major issues: the lack of transparency and oversight due to the absence of cameras in ABA school-based settings, and how some private clinics conduct Evaluations that are non-transferable. This not only limits parental choice but also sets children and families back by forcing them to repeat lengthy diagnostic processes just to access essential services

Being physically disabled I experience a lot of pain there needs to be more medical equipment provided that a physically disabled person can use at home.