



A-Team MN – Statewide community of self-advocates and families advocating for a full array of disability services. [ateam.mngroup@gmail.com](mailto:ateam.mngroup@gmail.com)

## **Improving Disability Services with Data Based Systems Reform**

### **Real Data for Real Data**

**Situation:** The System for disability services for people with significant I/DD is in crisis.

- General misunderstanding of I/DD characteristics exists
- Extreme lack of statewide and county-wide population data exists
- Chaotic case management services statewide
- Critical DSP workforce shortage statewide
- Critical shortage of housing options statewide
- Work option choices under constant threat of elimination
- Rural areas lack disability services creating inequities
- Many adult age people with I/DD waiting for years for housing, work options/day programs.
- Disability Services are interconnected and interdependent. When one isn't working it affects others.
- Aging population: people with I/DD and their parents/family members.

**Solution:** Data Based System Reform

### **Planning the Future System**

The MN Legislature evaluates and proposes changes in disability services for people with substantial I/DD by:

- Meeting constituents where they are,
- Incorporating their lived experiences, needs, and informed choices into a system driven by **person-centered planning and informed choice**.

This is accomplished by:

- Using a practical and pragmatic approach.
- Meeting with real people. Discover what they need and what they want.
- Using a strategic management approach to improve/reform system operations, efficiency, and efficacy using real data with real people.
- Completing strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats analysis.
- Developing a system from the bottom up.
- Commission oversight in planning related processes.
- Enabling families to drive the change.

## SF683

### **Legislative Commission on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD).**

- I/DD as defined in MN State Laws and Rules, National Institute for Health, American Psychiatric Association Statistical Manual.

#### **12 Members Bipartisan Senate/House Committees:**

Human Services (4)  
Labor (4)  
Housing (4)

#### **Duties: Fact finding. Research & recommendations**

- Develop expertise & knowledge.
- Understand characteristics across the I/DD spectrum and their short-term and long-term needs.
- Gain knowledge about process by which people with I/DD access services and whether those processes result in informed choices.
- Meeting people with I/DD and their families where they live.
- Review state & county data.
- Identify and prioritize areas for reform.
- Review all proposed legislation affecting people with I/DD and make recommendations to legislature.
- Select counties to develop proposed plan unique to their county demographics to meet needs and informed choices of their I/DD residents. A plan to reform I/DD disability services that includes a full array of services, related costs and a proposed financial analysis of costs.
- Award planning funds to selected counties for planning data-based reform disability services.
- Authorized to approve county plans and to make recommendations for implementation.
- Report: By December 31 of each even numbered year, the commission must submit a report on the commission's work and recommendations to the committees of the senate and house of representatives from which the commission membership is drawn.

#### **County Data Based Reform Plan Requirements**

- Collect and analyze county data related to its I/DD population in areas: Case management services, housing, work options, and DSP local labor market. Identify gaps, insufficient services and poor-quality services.
- Review strengths and weaknesses of county contractor and county employee case management services and develop a plan to enhance knowledge and expertise of case managers.
- Develop a plan to collaborate with regional higher education providers for education and training of direct support professionals.
- Develop a plan to ensure availability of a full array of housing options.
- Develop a plan to collaborate with existing work options provider to develop a business model that delivers a full array of work choice options, prevocational rehabilitation, life enrichment and day services programs.
- Develop a Plan to collaborate with a school district to offer vocational exploration opportunities for students with I/DD in grades 7-12.
- Seek advice and counsel directly from self-advocates with I/DD, their families and legal guardians.
- Develop a plan to implement its proposed county disability services system reforms and identify implementation costs.