

Minnesota Senate
Human Services Committee
Chair: Sen. Hoffman

Re: Community First Services and Supports, (CFSS) – Not going well.

My name is Idil Abdull, I am a Somali Autism Mom & trying to retire advocate.

Today, I am testifying regarding CFSS. As you know, this program replaced PCA, CSG, etc. While the idea was novel, the execution has been horrible.

There do not seem to be time limits or quality checks to ensure families receiving this have safety checks. For example, the consultation agency can ignore the family for months. The county (Carver in this case) tells us they have no power. DHS as usual is missing in action.

There are so many unnecessary steps such as needing a responsible person when the parent wants to help their child. There is no background check done for the person responsible, yet they have access to private health information. How is that safe for children with autism and other disabilities? This is a huge headache for single parent families who do not have someone to be the responsible person. I am curious what the thought behind this policy was about by the legislators as it is inconvenient. The responsible person is not compensated for their work. Where are you expecting the family to find this person?

In addition to needing a consultation agency and a responsible person, the family also needs a fiscal management agency plus the county. That is too many steps for families. If the goal was smoother, it has been anything but smooth.

I am asking this committee to hold the state Medicaid agency accountable and not allow them to unleash programs that are not yet ready to serve autism families and other disabilities.

Thanks, as usual,

Idil Abdull, Somali Autism Mom