



King County

Board for Developmental Disabilities

Build Capacity and Provide Equitable Access to Community-Based Supports – Provider Capacity

Updated November 16, 2018

Action Request

Build capacity in the pool of approved providers for all services, and address barriers such as low wages.

Individuals Cannot Reliably Find Providers

Through listening sessions, surveys and requests for information and support, The Arc of King County continues to hear from individuals, families and other community members regarding capacity issues with providers. Peer organizations across the state report the same issues including:

- Service “deserts” - especially in rural regions where services are not available.
- Lack of providers for all services, but especially behavior, respite and medical personal care.
- Ongoing issues with training– both as a barrier for recruiting providers and continued lack of training to support people with intellectual or developmental disabilities (I/DD) and Autism, especially if positive behavior supports are required.

Loss of Positive Behavior Support is Triggering Crises

Very challenging behavior support needs are not being met – for children or adults with I/DD. Applied Behavior Analysis and positive behavior supports have been transferred from the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) to the State Health Care Authority, but families have not been able to access these supports yet because the providers are not in place.

Care professionals associated with hospitals report a disturbing increase with DSHS/DDA-enrolled individuals (children, teens and adults) who are experiencing self-injurious and aggressive behavior, making it unsafe for the family and individual to stay in the home, stay enrolled in school, or participate in the community.

Potential Solutions for Personal Care and Respite Providers

- Review training to address the needs of people with I/DD, especially with trauma-informed care and behavior supports.
- Consider tiered rates for respite and personal care providers who work with people with more complex medical and behavior needs.
- Consider allowing dual enrollment with two provider agencies.

Potential Solutions for Behavior Supports

- Restore and expand provider capacity to provide functional behavior assessments, positive behavior support plans, skilled staff to implement the plans, and support for caregivers to develop and use a functional emergency/crisis plan. These providers must be available for both children and adults.
- Provide access to ongoing positive behavior supports, as well as crisis care. Provide access to both children and adults.
- Provide supports similar to the Children’s Crisis Outreach and Response System that can be called upon at any time for adults with I/DD and Autism.
- Explore ways to build positive behavior support capacity in community programs that accept respite hours.

Providers in our health care and human service systems must be responsive to the needs of people with I/DD and Autism.