

PA OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS (ODP) PRACTICES SYSTEMIC POLICY DISCRIMINATION AGAINST

SEVERE AND PROFOUND AUTISM

ODP's mission is to support disabled Pennsylvanians to achieve a meaningful quality of life. Government must protect our choices and our money while remaining fair and equitable.

ODP has FAILED! AND THE GOVERNOR DOESN'T CARE.

Some families say that ODP policies violate their civil rights and are discriminatory. Others cite an abuse of power in ODP's overt preference for an inclusive ideology. ODP has robbed disabled citizens of millions of dollars in aid and matching federal funds, resulting in multiple lawsuits. **ENOUGH!**

UNDERFUNDED SYSTEM



YEARS AND YEARS of underfunding are now crushing the system. PA GAVE UP **430 MILLION DOLLARS** in matching federal money by deliberately underestimating the true cost of services. **WORSE YET**, from that insufficient budget, **THE GOVERNOR TOOK BACK 170 MILLION - GIVE IT BACK!**

HOUSING — SEVERE AUTISM LEFT OUT



PA refuses to fund (HCBS) housing specially designed to advance the safety and quality of life of individuals with severe autism and I/DD **EVEN THOUGH** it is cheaper than current ODP options, more clinically appropriate, and desired by disabled adults and their families

JOBS — BUT ONLY FOR THE HIGH FUNCTIONING



Competitive, integrated employment is unrealistic for this population, yet non-competitive employment programs are being closed down. ODP policies refuse to fund jobs or (HCBS) activities "onsite." As a result, adults with severe autism are often left isolated at home.

SERVICES - NOWHERE TO GO

- With 12,000 people waiting for services, there are not enough providers. ODP will further limit access to services by hand-picking providers through **selective contracting**, removing choice from families
- **Careworker crisis** - ODP has failed to properly fund rates which would pay workers a living wage
- **Service (HCBS) providers routinely reject** individuals with severe autism since ODP pays more for community support, which is not always an option for those with dangerous behaviors

PA LAGS BEHIND THE REST OF THE NATION



National advocacy organizations have targeted PA as one of the most restrictive states in the country because ODP limits choice and prevents the development of innovative clinical, residential, and on-site day programming, particularly for the more severely disabled.

PA refuses to develop a true continuum of care, from the most inclusive options to intensive, disability-specific settings, promoting instead a "one-size fits all model" of service provision

Adults with I/DD are the only population in PA that can't choose where and with whom they live, work, and receive services. This is a clear violation of DEI policy

HELP US ACHIEVE AUTISM EQUITY: Mission for Educating Children with Autism

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