



General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Joint State Government Commission
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Short summary in response to 2022 House Resolution 212
Delivery of State Services Relating to Autism, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
a Task Force and Advisory Committee Report

House Resolution 212 (2021), Printer's No. 3330, adopted June 29, 2022, created a legislative task force on services provided to individuals with intellectual disability, developmental disability, and autism and directed the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a study on the impact of the Commonwealth's current needs and system capacity for providing opportunities for individuals with intellectual disability, developmental disability, and autism in the Commonwealth. The Commission was further directed to establish an advisory committee to assist in its study. The Advisory Committee included representatives from the Commonwealth agencies charged with responsibility for oversight of these services, the Office of Developmental Programs in the Department of Human Services and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation in the Department of Labor and Industry. Other representatives included individuals and family members of individuals who are receiving home and community-based services, or on waiting lists for services. Service providers, advocates, self-advocates, a physician, and a representative of the Pennsylvania Association of County Administrators of Mental Health and Development Services, as well as other interested persons were also on the Advisory Committee.

HR 212 directed the Commission to examine and study a comprehensive list of issues that all ultimately relate to the efficiency, uniformity, and best practices of the administration of a system that's goal should be quality of life outcomes designed to assist individuals with various disability to function as independently as possible with proper supports that promote the ability of persons with disability to live everyday lives of their own choosing.

The report contains information and proposed recommendations and policy suggestions on issues such as: waiver services, waiting lists, transition protocols, the impact of federal and state law and regulations on supports and services, interagency collaborations, reimbursement rate setting, integrated job coaching, community participation supports, employment opportunities for persons with disability, current treatment needs and network capacity to accommodate persons with high acuity needs, living settings, transportation, workforce issues, and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on program closures.

Additionally, the history of the development of Pennsylvania's laws and system has been examined closely. While this information may be distressing for people, it cannot be ignored. The horrific attitudes and treatment of persons with disabilities that spurred the institutionalization movement need to be acknowledged, to help remember why it is important to say, "never again." This history affects and drives much of the policy-making that has occurred over the past 50 years and into today.

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