



MISSISSIPPI DIVISION OF
MEDICAID

Public Comments For the
1915(c) Intellectual Disabilities/Developmental Disabilities
(ID/DD) Waiver
Transition Plan for Home and Community-Based Settings
September 17 – October 17, 2014

1. Comment received by telephone during public hearing held on September 26, 2014. “This is Beth Porter, Disability Rights Mississippi. My comment is that this is not accessible to the constituents that you serve, and it needs to be more accessible.”
2. Comments received from The Arc of Mississippi via emailed letter and crosswalk document. Both documents are attached to this page.
3. Comments received from Bobby Barton during the public hearing held on Friday October 3, 2014. “Okay. I’m sorry. I’m coming a little bit unprepared. I found out about this meeting probably second hand and didn’t have a lot of the information I should have reviewed. But I’m the Executive Director of Warren Yazoo Mental Health Service, Region 15 in Vicksburg. We have IDD services partially financed by waivers in our Yazoo County Office in Yazoo City, Mississippi. We serve probably approximately 50 individuals. We have at least ten other individuals that have been on the IDD waiver list from one to three years. We understand there are a good many private providers also coming -- wanting to come into the state and take waivers, and I would just like to request that we be given the consideration due for being on the waiting list, maybe prior to outside providers coming in from outside the state. And that all community

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Walter Sillers Building | 550 High Street, Suite 1000 | Jackson, Mississippi 39201

mental health centers in Mississippi will be offered the opportunity, if they should like to provide IDD waiver services, to apply for waivers maybe prior to private providers coming from outside the state. That would be my comment for today.”

4. Comment received via email to Margaret Wilson on Oct 16,2014 from Suzette Morrow:

“I am a parent of an individual that lives in a Supervised Living apartment. It is a 24 unit apartment complex which is located in the city of Picayune, MS.

It is my understanding that because it only occupies people with IDD, it is not considered to be in an integrated setting. Therefore it may be affected by the CMS final ruling amending the requirements for Home and Community-Based Settings. While I am in favor of getting individuals out of insitutions and placing them in a intergrated setting, I have serious concerns as to how this will affect my son.

I think that this is the ideal living arrangement for my son compared to living in a home with three other individuals that he may or may not know. Some of the new group homes are located in rural areas because of zoning issues in subdivisions. Although this may be an ideal living arrangement for some, I feel that this setting would not benefit my son. If the home were in a rural setting, it would isolate him from his community. He loves living in his own home, checking his own mail box, taking care of his own pet, doing his own grocery shopping with assistance from staff, choosing what peers he would like to hang out with daily. I love that he is able to make his own choices and have as much freedom as possible for his disability.

He would loose a great deal of choice and independence by moving into a group home. He would have to share a bathroom, kitchen and living room. His current living arrangements allow him "choice and independence". He plans his menu according to his likes/dislikes. He has the freedom of using the bathroom when he needs to do so. He has the freedom of choosing what television program he would like to watch in his own living room. He has the freedom of taking a nap when he wants to and will not be distrubed my three other people living in his home. He has the choice of visiting his peers when he chooses to do so. This program has helped him develop independent living skills, social skills and vocational skills. He has become "PART" of his community because of the supervised living program in which he resides.

This is a wonderful program and I feel at ease knowing that my son's needs, wants and choices are being met. Please consider using programs such as this to model Home and Community- Based settings for the individuals that need supervised living.

As a concerned parent I would like to thank you for this opportunity.