

**Disability Advocacy Alliance**  
*Protecting the Rights of Ohio's Most Vulnerable Citizens*  
[www.DisabilityAdvocacyAlliance.org](http://www.DisabilityAdvocacyAlliance.org)

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**For Immediate Release: January 30, 2015**

**DISABILITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE RELEASES COMMENTS TO FINAL REPORT OF THE OHIO DODD  
STRATEGIC PLANNING LEADERSHIP GROUP**

Disability Advocacy Alliance (DAA) has released its [comments](#) in response to the Final Report of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) Strategic Planning Leadership Group (SPLG).

DAA, an all-volunteer organization, was formed by families of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to protect the rights of vulnerable citizens with disabilities in Ohio.

DAA has grave concerns about the following SPLG recommendations which eliminate the right of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) to receive person-centered services and supports in the settings of their choice:

- "The total number of ICF/ beds is reduced by 50 percent, to 2800 beds."
- "1500 people will leave ICF facilities of 16 beds or larger and move to community homes. The average setting size of these community homes is four beds or fewer."
- "The number of people employed is 50 percent of the adults served."

SPLG's proposals do not follow the true meaning of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Olmstead* decision which affirms the need for a range of services to meet the diverse needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). *Olmstead* also makes clear that individual choice is paramount in determining residential and program placement.

DAA takes issue with SPLG's cavalier approach to policymaking:

- From a cost perspective, SPLG's recommendations are not grounded in reality. Caring for individuals with complex needs in a disjointed community setting without the efficiencies and expertise of an Intermediate Care Facility home (ICF) will astronomically increase the cost of care to taxpayers, putting the financial viability of the entire DODD service system at risk, along with the vulnerable people it serves.
- **In 2005, an ICF elimination proposal was projected to cost the state at minimum \$111 million per year in lost federal participation. *Imagine the cost in 2015.***
- SPLG's recommendations ignore the crisis level state of Ohio's home care system. *News Channel 5 Cleveland's* November 2013 investigation uncovered serious cases of abuse ranging from physical and sexual assaults to neglect. The *Columbus Dispatch's* December 2014 reporting found wide-spread fraud, low-paid, poorly trained workers, and a lack of information for families to properly vet services.
- Setting untested employment benchmarks while simultaneously closing sheltered workshops and day programs leaves individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities at risk of long, isolating, and unproductive days in front of a television.

SPLG's recommendations made in the face of alarming facts and unanswered fiscal questions reek of placing political and ideological goals ahead of the health and welfare of Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities

DAA's comments in response to SPLG recommendations are available [HERE](#).

DAA looks forward to receiving a written response from the Directors of Health Transformation, DODD, and Medicaid.