Resolution

ENROLLED HOUSE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 1013

By: Nelson of the House

and

Treat of the Senate

A Concurrent Resolution relating to Developmental Disabilities Services Division; recognizing the problem of a lengthy waiting list for waiver services; stating findings of Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel for Developmental Disabilities; requesting Department of Human Services to implement a waiting list based on a Prioritization of Need ranking; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel for Developmental Disabilities was appointed to develop a comprehensive plan to support individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families and issue recommendations to address Oklahoma's lengthy waiting list for waiver services through the Developmental Disabilities Services Division of the Department of Human Services; and

WHEREAS, the waiting list for waiver services consists of approximately 7,000 men, women, and children with intellectual disabilities from across the state requesting services; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Panel for Developmental Disabilities sunset on April 1, 2015, and the Panel issued a list of recommendations, including the crucial recommendation to prioritize the waiting list for waiver services instead of focusing on the date of application; and

WHEREAS, given the goal of supporting individuals and families, the use of "first come, first served" as the criteria for admission to the waiver list is counterproductive. The person with the next date may have no significant unmet needs, while the person whose date is years behind may have great need. Failure to address more significant needs could result in emergency services at an increased cost; and

WHEREAS, it is the Panel's opinion that waiver services must be used for individuals whose needs cannot be met through existing formal or informal supports available to them through the Developmental Disabilities Services Division nonwaivered services, other agencies, or other community resources. The Panel believes a needs-based prioritization is necessary to serve the state's population of individuals with developmental disabilities in an equitable manner. Of particular interest to the Panel are those strategies used by the state of Missouri, which include the use of a Prioritization of Need (PON) document to rank how much support or assistance the individual needs; and

WHEREAS, current emergency admission criteria for waiver services is based on the most dire of circumstances related to the health and safety of individuals and their primary caretakers. This leaves addressing levels of serious but not dire circumstances to the happenstance of application date. Even in an environment of scarce resources, a system that prioritizes need and provides services accordingly would further the mission of maintaining families as caregivers. The Panel recommends the criteria for expedited Developmental Disabilities Services Division waiver services be amended to take into account the age of the applicant, the age of the caregiver, the medical condition of the caregiver, and significant life events.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 55TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Department of Human Services implement a waiting list for Developmental Disabilities Services Division waiver services that ranks individuals based on a Prioritization of Need (PON) and takes into account the age of the applicant, the age of the caregiver, the medical condition of the caregiver, and significant life events.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Director of the Department of Human Services.

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 21st day of May, 2015.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

Adopted by the Senate the 22nd day of May, 2015.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this 22nd day of May, 2015, at 8:12 o'clock P. M.

By: Chi Benge