

ARRM 2024 Legislative Priorities



Higher Wages
for our
Hard-working Helpers!



POLICY PRIORITIES

Workforce Changes

UNCOMPETITIVE WAGES

Despite meaningful investments passed during the 2023 legislative session that will increase reimbursement amounts in the Disability Waiver Rate System, Direct Support Professional (DSP) wages remain low. In addition, there is an emerging workforce crisis among Supervisors, with increased burnout and wage compression.

Legislative Proposal:

ARRM, in partnership with the Best Life Alliance, propose increasing the Competitive Workforce Factor to 16.7%. This number is based on the most recent analysis from DHS that compares DSP wages to other occupations with similar training and education requirements.

PAY EQUITY

Make Supervisor Standard Occupation Code Changes

Legislative Proposal:

Legislation will propose adding another occupation, SOC code 11-9151, Social and Community Service Manager. The corresponding wage for that job is \$36.25. Since the widely-accepted definition of a supervisor is that they typically spend more than 50% of their time in supervisor duties, legislation will compute a wage using 60% of the manager job and 40% of the specialist job, which would come to \$30.90.

245D

REDUCE BARRIERS TO PROVIDING SERVICE

Current qualifications for Designated Coordinators (DCs) and Designated Managers (DMs) are a barrier to hiring.

Legislative Proposal:

Amend the qualifications for DCs by removing the requirement that their degree be in a "human service-related field" and remove the requirements for DMs that their three years of required supervisor experience be with a provider of services.

STREAMLINE SERVICES

Restrictions on 16- and 17-year-olds being able to pass medications placed an unnecessary limitation on what those DSPs were allowed to do.

Legislative Proposal:

Remove the restriction on 16- and 17-year-olds being able to pass medications. Also update language related to the "45-Day Planning Meeting" to better reflect the "45 days of service, or 60 calendar days, whichever is shorter" language in statute.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY (AT)

CONSISTENT IMPLEMENTATION

Rules and requirements to implement vary with each county; which may result in delays in getting AT.

Legislative Proposal:

Require that lead agencies are not implementing additional requirements, outside of what is required by the state, which could result in the delay of implementation or approval of AT.

INCLUDE AT COSTS

New compensation thresholds for CRS say that 66% of Medicaid revenue must go towards Direct Care wages and compensation. Thresholds do not include the cost of remote support and will make it difficult to meet the threshold **and** pay for AT.

Legislative Proposal:

Adds the cost of remote support to the list of allowable expenses in the new compensation threshold standards for direct support.

Out-of-Home Child Respite

In 2020, out-of-home respite for children was restricted to licensed settings ONLY. Previously Case Managers could allow this service in unlicensed settings, similar to how it is for adults.

Legislative Proposal:

Allow out-of-home respite in unlicensed settings, provided there is

- sign-off from both the Case Manager and Guardian of the home,
- a limit on the number of days in a calendar year that an individual can access respite in an unlicensed setting,
- a limit on the number of consecutive days an individual can be in an unlicensed setting,
- requirements that the service be provided in a residential setting; and
- all individuals over 13 have a background check completed

You're Invited

DISABILITY SERVICES

DAY AT THE CAPITOL

MARCH 19 • 10 AM



Minnesota's BIGGEST Rally

QUESTIONS?

Please reach out anytime.

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