

Leadership from a State Medicaid Director: How One Leader Implemented Program Changes
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MEDICAID MYTHOLOGY
FACTS AND FICTION

Black and White Cartoon of a hiker asking God, "While I can explain the meaning of life,
I don't dare try to explain how the Medicaid system works."

MYTH #1
THERE IS A MEDICAID PROGRAM

IF YOU'VE SEEN ONE MEDICAID PROGRAM,
YOU'VE SEEN ONE MEDICAID PROGRAM

MEDICIAD IS A TOOL THAT SUPPORTS MULTIPLE SERVICES TO MULTIPLE
GROUPS

Children Pregnant Women Families
Elders Persons with Disabilities

TWO BROAD CATEGORIES OF SERVICES

BASIC HEALTH INSURANCE

Medical model

Standardized services

Doctor, hospital, lab etc.

For all who have a card

LONG TERM SUPPORTS

Non-Medical Model

Individualized Services

--Nursing Facility/ICF-MR

--Home and Community-Based Waivers

--Personal Care Services

Only for Subset of Medicaid eligible persons

CURRENT TREND REVERSE RELIANCE ON INSTITUTIONS
MAXIMIZE COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

MYTH # 2

MEDICAID IS MEDICAL MODEL I DON'T WANT IT!

BASIC HEALTH INSURANCE

Is Medical - Should Be

We all Need it you, too, may break a wrist

THE OTHER MEDICAID
LONG TERM SUPPORTS

Medicaid is the only act in town
Personal Care Services State Plan Option
Habilitation/Rehabilitation Services
Home and Community-Based Waiver Services
Increasingly Consumer-Directed
Great Opportunity for creativity

MYTH #3

THE MEDICAID DIRECTOR CAN FIX IT

CIVICS 101 We live in a political world
State Structures Vary Greatly
Legislatures Appropriate the \$\$\$\$
Executive Can Play a Big Role
Specific Agency Heads May Be More Important than Medicaid Director
KNOW YOUR STATE'S DYNAMICS

MYTH #4

MEDICAID IS INFLEXIBLE

BEFORE YOU BLAME THE FEDS, CHECK OUT WHAT OTHERS HAVE DONE

ALWAYS START WITH A GOAL YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH AND FIGURE OUT
HOW TO DO IT NEVER START WITH AN ASSUMED RESTRICTION

MYTH #5

MEDICAID CAN DO OLMSTEAD ALONE

IT TAKES MORE THAN MEDICAID TO MOVE INTO AND LIVE IN THE
COMMUNITY OF YOUR CHOICE

OLMSTEAD IS IMPORTANT BUT WE NEED TO KEEP OUR EYES ON THE
BROADER GOAL OF FULL CIVIL RIGHTS FULL INTEGRATION

Current Supports for Work
Severity of Disability

Future Disability

Some Disability

Unmet Needs

ADA

SSDI (1 year disability)

SSI (1 year disability)

APTD (4 year disability)

Persons with
Developmental
Disabilities
Persons with
Mental Illness

Persons with
Physical
Disabilities

Children with
Special Needs
HCBC-ECI
Waiver

LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD