



# *Imagine Different... Achieve Different!*

## Imagine Different Coalition Action Memorandum

### Executive Summary

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#### **Purpose of the Memorandum:**

The Imagine Different Coalition has crafted a set of recommendations regarding ways to offer family living to hundreds of children with developmental disabilities in Pennsylvania who are currently growing up in segregated congregate care facilities or are at risk of institutional placement. Confident that the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services shares our goal of family life for children, we are presenting ideas and options from our collective experience to help make that goal a reality.

The purpose of the Memorandum is to introduce these recommendations to state agency representatives and to invite collaboration among the Coalition and state agencies to find ways for Pennsylvania's children to grow up in families. With this audience in mind, the Memorandum assumes some background knowledge about congregate care, Medicaid waivers, permanency planning, and Pennsylvania's child-serving systems.

#### **Overview of Recommendations:**

The Memorandum discusses, in detail, the following suggestions to address alternative system strategies to congregate care for children with developmental disabilities.

#### **1. Waiver Funding Options**

- a. Amend current ODP and OLTL 1915c HCBS waivers to ensure waiver coverage for all children with developmental disabilities in or at risk of placement in congregate care facilities.  
OR
- b. Establish one new HCBS waiver to cover all children with developmental disabilities in or at risk of placement in congregate care facilities.

#### **2. Funding Options Specific to Children with Developmental Disabilities in the Child Welfare System**

- a. Improve and expand CYF funding for Medical Foster Care.  
AND/OR
- b. Provide access to Medicaid HCBS waivers (with amendments described in #1 above).

#### **3. Implementation Components Needed in Conjunction with Funding Options**

- a. Establish policies and practices that assure permanency planning  
AND
- b. Prioritize resources and access pathways to achieve family life

#### **Desired Response:**

The Imagine Different Coalition seeks to collaborate with and serve as a resource to state agencies and interested others who serve Pennsylvanian children. We request the opportunity to work with representatives of these agencies to consider these and other creative solutions to help shift Pennsylvania's systems away from congregate care and toward family-based alternatives.