

APD > News & Reports > Media Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 18, 2008

CONTACT:

Melanie Mowry Etters
Communications Director
(850) 488-4257

Agency Continues to Implement Waiver Law

TALLAHASSEE, FL — On January 1, 2009, Medicaid waiver recipients will have their cost plans adjusted to reflect their actual spending on services during the prior year. In the 2008 Legislative Session, the legislature approved an adjustment to individual cost plans to reflect actual dollars spent plus 5 percent or the person's current cost plan, whichever is less.

During November and December, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) will be reviewing cost plans from the 2007-08 state fiscal year. Many times an APD customer's cost plan is approved for more services than are actually used. The Legislature voted to eliminate the unused services from cost plans as a method to control future spending.

The law—Chapter 393.0661 (6) Florida Statutes (2008)—defines how the process will work and who will or will not be affected.

Director of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities Jim DeBeaugrine said, "The re-basing of cost plans should not eliminate any needed services for the people our agency serves. It is a cost containment exercise that will assist the agency in curbing the rapid increase in service requests we see each year. This effort should not have a dramatic effect on any of our customers."

The agency will review the plans of the 31,000 waiver recipients to see if any actual reductions in services will occur as a result of this law. Letters will be mailed to APD customers in November making them aware of this legislative requirement. The customers adversely affected will have the option to request a fair hearing if they choose.

The agency annually serves about 35,000 Floridians with developmental disabilities of mental retardation, autism, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, and Prader-Willi syndrome. For more information on the agency, call 1-866-APD-CARES or visit www.apdcares.org

###