

# MYTHS & FACTS

## Regarding People with Mental Retardation, Their Service Needs, Options and Choices from the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation (TDMHMR)

### **Myth #1**

***"Over 20,000 people are waiting for State Mental Retardation Facility (state school) placement."***

#### **Fact**

According to the TDMHMR's Waiting List Report (February 2003), at the end of Fiscal Year 2002, the total waiting list size was 21,067. Of these, 19,230 (91%) persons are waiting for enrollment in the Home and Community Based (HCS) Medicaid Waiver Program and 1,837 (9%) persons are waiting for other services including respite, supported employment, therapies, residential services and other supports. Of those waiting for additional services, only 11 individuals are waiting for state school admission (TDMHMR, as of Friday, March 28, 2003).

### **Myth #2**

***"When presenting for services, families are not offered state school placement as a service option for their loved one."***

#### **Fact**

Senate Bill 358 (76<sup>th</sup> Legislature) amended the **Health and Safety Code Section 533.038** to require both an oral and written explanation of the programs and services for which an individual, and/or the individual's legally authorized representative, presenting for services is eligible. In addition, Senate Bill 367 (77<sup>th</sup> Legislature) reinforced Senate Bill 358 by amending the **Government Code Section 531.042**, to require that individuals presenting for services are provided information about the full array of care and support options.

Most recently, TDMHMR amended the Mental Retardation Authority performance contracts with a "**Standard Service Option Form**." The form, amended in January 2003, was done to provide more consistent implementation of the previously cited requirements.

### **Myth #3**

***"People with mental retardation who have left the state schools are not happy in the community."***

#### **Fact**

On March 13, 2003, TDMHMR released a Draft Executive Summary for a "Consumer/Family Satisfaction Survey, Placements From State Mental Retardation Facilities" conducted by staff of the local Mental Retardation Authorities.

The major findings in terms of overall satisfaction were:

- 81% are "Very Satisfied" or "Somewhat Satisfied"
- 11% rate the supports as "Adequate"
- 8% are "Somewhat Dissatisfied" or "Very Dissatisfied"

Note: The interviews were conducted on a group of individuals who had moved to and remained in the community over the past 5 years. The twelve areas for which satisfaction level was assessed include living arrangement, primary daily activity, staff knowledge, staff availability, medical care, diet, physical safety, behavioral supports, learning opportunities, social activities, overall progress and overall satisfaction.

### **Myth #4**

***"State Schools are cheaper than community."***

#### **Fact**

The 77<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature directed the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation (TDMHMR) via Senate Bill 1, Rider 65, to analyze and report on the average costs of state schools, ICF/MR community-based facilities and the Home and Community-Based (HCS) Medicaid Waiver program services and supports (TDMHMR, Rider 65 Cost Comparison Report, May 3, 2002).

TDMHMR found that state schools are more costly than the HCS/MRLA Waiver program. Note. The data in this report covers the time period of State Fiscal Year 2000. See below.

| <b>DAILY AND ANNUAL COST PER PERSON PER STATE SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY ICF/MR AND HCS/MRLA WAIVER</b> |  |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|--|---|
|   | <b>ICF/MR CONSUMERS IN STATE SCHOOLS</b>   | <b>ICF/MR CONSUMERS OTHER THAN STATE SCHOOLS</b>  | <b>ICF/MR CONSUMERS IN ALL FACILITIES COMBINED</b>   | <b>HCS/MRLA WAIVER CONSUMERS</b>  |
|   | Includes all costs such as Statewide Indirect Cost Allocation Plan; TDMHMR Indirect Cost Allocation Plan; maintenance & construction; employee benefits; and federally allowable administrative, medical & overhead costs. | Includes all Medicaid costs that are not included in the waiver rates for these programs. | Includes all the costs included for consumers in state schools and those in facilities other than state schools. | Includes combined costs of individuals receiving services in the HCS waiver or the MRLA waiver. Also includes costs for all Medicaid state plan services not included in the waiver rates.* |
| <b>ANNUAL COST**</b><br>per consumer  | \$71,678.39  | \$46,396.77   | \$56,575.32  | \$47,917.43   |
| <b>DAILY COST**</b><br>per consumer   | \$195.84   | \$126.77  | \$154.58   | \$130.92  |

\* In March of 2000, TDMHMR implemented cost-saving measures in the HCS and MRLA waiver programs. The impact of those actions is not reflected fully in the Rider 65 Report. HSC/MRLA daily waiver costs, not including acute care, in State Fiscal Year 2001 were 7% less than the daily costs for similar services in Fiscal Year 2000.

\*\* Annual costs are the total costs for both institutional or waiver services plus acute care costs and divided by the annual unduplicated number of consumers. Daily costs are annual costs divided by 366 since 2000 was a leap year.

**Myth #5**

***“People at the highest level of need (LON) cannot be served in the community.”***

TDMHMR reported to the 77<sup>th</sup> Legislature (as required by SB 1 Rider 65) that persons with the highest level of need can and are being served in the community (May 3, 2002). The Cost Comparison Rider 65 Report indicates that 63 persons with a Pervasive Plus LON are served in the community versus 8 persons with a Pervasive Plus LON being served in a state school, during the same time period. See the information provided below.

| <b>ANNUAL UNDUPLICATED COUNT OF CONSUMERS SERVED BY LEVEL OF NEED</b> |  |  |  |                                  |
|---|--|--|--|----------------------------------|
|   | <b>ICF/MR CONSUMERS IN STATE SCHOOLS</b> | <b>ICF/MR CONSUMERS OTHER THAN STATE SCHOOLS</b> | <b>ICF/MR CONSUMERS IN ALL FACILITIES COMBINED</b> | <b>HCS/MRLA WAIVER CONSUMERS</b> |
| Intermittent  | 224                                      | 1,272  | 1,496  | 1,317                            |
| Percentage of total   | 3.98%                                    | 15.25%   | 10.71%   | 25.09%                           |
| Limited   | 1,398                                    | 3,699  | 5,097  | 2,149                            |
| Percentage of total   | 24.87%                                   | 44.34%   | 36.50%   | 40.94%                           |
| Extensive   | 1,991                                    | 1,723  | 3,714  | 1,171                            |
| Percentage of total   | 35.41%                                   | 20.65%   | 26.60%   | 22.30%                           |
| Pervasive   | 2,001                                    | 1,602  | 3,603  | 549                              |
| Percentage of total   | 35.59%                                   | 19.20%   | 25.80%   | 10.46%                           |
| Pervasive Plus  | 8  | 46   | 54   | 63                               |
| Percentage of total   | 0.14%                                    | 0.55%  | 0.38%  | 1.20%                            |
| <b>TOTAL SERVED</b>   | <b>5,622</b>                             | <b>8,342</b>                                     | <b>13,964</b>                                      | <b>5,249</b>                     |

**For more information, contact Amy Mizcles, The Arc of Texas, 512-454-6694 or Susan Marshall, The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities, 512-437-5417.**