

and adulthood success. Collaboration will occur in all systems so that planning for transition is lifelong and comprehensive.

Throughout elementary and secondary education and beyond, efforts to support success in the community will be fostered so that education and social activities are all part of engaging and developing skills and natural supports that continue through the lifespan. People will receive lifelong support in making choices and they will experience the presumption of competence and the dignity of self-determination commensurate with their age and ability. All decisions regarding the future will be founded on self-determination and individual personal choice.

Area 4: Community Inclusion

Goal 4: Maine will have a formal effort within each neighborhood or community to educate, foster inclusiveness, awareness, and an “it takes a village” mentality. Each community will form an informal safety and support web. Individual Service Plans will include the management of risk, including contingency plans (around personal crises, fires, disasters, etc.). Maine will enhance the community side of the equation. Like crime prevention strategies such as neighborhood or community “watch” locations, this effort will encourage or enhance neighborly activities that make up a safer and better-connected society for everyone. All individuals will have the opportunity to belong as a natural part of every community in which they live, work, and thrive.

Area 5: Common Sense Service Delivery

Goal 5a: Maine’s Developmental Services will deliver only the paid services needed; nothing more, and nothing less. Implementation will be regularly examined so that any inefficiency can be eliminated. A Stakeholder Working Group will receive input and participate in policy decisions about real life situations/policies to continue to examine the most equitable, efficient, and effective use of resources.

1. This Working Group will evaluate new methodologies or technologies that can be incorporated for success. This group would then make recommendations to improve the menu of services. They would recommend how each service can be delivered in the most efficient and effective manner. There will be regular examination of available technology to see if it can be incorporated into the achievement of goals.
2. This Working Group will regularly examine the balance of established protocols vs. acceptance of risk, i.e. one individual may accept support during the day along with very limited support during the night knowing there may be some risk associated with limited night staffing, but the tradeoff is acceptable to the person. This also applies to community risk – the person may engage with and make errors within society, but will have maximum opportunity to freely engage, and will have at least a safety net to avoid catastrophe. Each person would have presumed competence allowing the “dignity of risk” that comes with independence in society.
3. This Working Group will regularly examine developmental services through the lens of how the rest of the world functions. Generic goods and services available to enhance everyone’s lives should be applicable to everyone in society. In this sense, individuals with developmental services needs are quite the same as everyone else. Specialized services should only be looked to when generic services alone can’t support the achievement of the individual’s goals.

Goal 5b: Formal services will be based on individual and realistic needs, not on formulaic policies.

Services will be flexible with only the necessary amount of paid support services. There will be no “one size fits all” approach. The formal delivery system will become nimble and flexible to allow for changes in a person’s functioning and support needs, and it will minimize obstacles to flexible adaptation. This will eliminate the need for people to fit into “categories”, so they can receive services/housing – all will receive what they need at a level appropriate to them at any point in time, whether that increases or decreases. Maine will meet each person where they are.