

# Self-Directed Services



**DDS Self  
Direction  
Managers:**

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# The Department of Developmental Services

## Real Lives Law- 2014

Promotes self-directed support options for individuals receiving DDS services and assures that Self-Direction information, outreach, training and safeguards are provided.

Over 1585 people enrolled in Self-Directed supports.

Gives people the opportunity to use their DDS budget to purchase supports and services that address their needs and goals.



# Why do people choose to Self-Direct?

- Already know what they want to do.
- Have already been self-directing through a DESE program.
- Participants gain confidence by feeling empowered and in charge of their lives.
- Haven't felt that traditional day programs or services were a good fit.
- Want to focus on individualized, community based services.
- People like flexibility and having more creativity.
- Want to explore various activities and interest to develop a vision.
- Are concerned about public health issues.
- Have a provider in mind that they want to hire to provide the supports.
- Don't want to be associated with DDS- type services, but still need support.

# Principles of Self- Determination

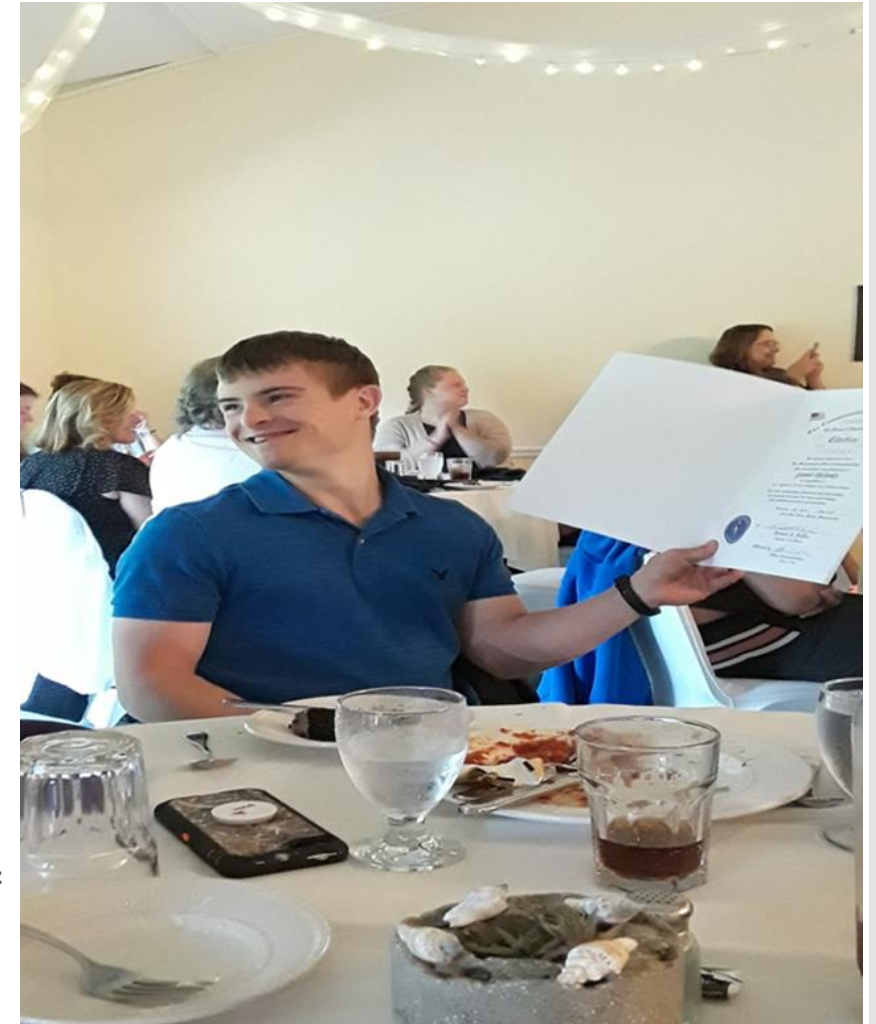
*Freedom* to plan your own life and to pursue the things that are important to you.

*Authority* over an individual support budget.

*Support* to organize resources in ways that are life enhancing and meaningful.

*Responsibility* for the wise use of public dollars and recognition of the contribution that people with disabilities can make in their communities.

*Confirmation* of the important roles that self advocates can have in a newly designed system. Honoring this leadership.



**Traditional  
Agency**

**Agency with  
Choice**

**Participant  
Directed  
Program**

Self-Directed options provide an opportunity for people to have more control in organizing and arranging their supports.

# Some individuals receive services from MassHealth

Day Habilitation

Personal Care Assistance

Adult Day Health Program

Adult Foster Care

All of these services offer a plan based on measurable goals and objectives and prescribe an integrated program to address those goals.

Therapies like OT, PT, Speech, or nursing are available.

Your Service Coordinator will help in the referral process for these services when appropriate.





Self-Direction  
can be a good  
fit for ASD

## Individuals with Autism without an intellectual disability (ASD)

- Some individuals need very little support in directing their services.
- Technology can be a resource in setting up schedules and systems.
- Support Brokers- DDS staff assist participants throughout the process.

Individuals with ASD might need assistance with communication, daily activities and navigating their community.

- In attending college
- Learning to drive
- Creating a community garden
- Robotics training program
- Karate or fitness classes

# Self-Directed Services are Flexible and Individualized

**Vision:** Can relate to work, health, friendships, home and social life.

- Consider all of the options.....Who do you know, what is your network, might they be a good provider?
- Work, Community activities, Health and well-being, Art, Music....
- What are the building blocks to move in this direction?
- Community first.....Use regular places.
- Take a class, volunteer at the hospital, practice community skills, join a local club, learn how to use a computer at a workshop at the library.



# Vision- let's focus on the future

What is the meaning of my life?

What is my journey?

How can I discover who I am?

What makes my life a good life for me?

What motivates me?

What supports or activities will help me move forward?



Life  
is  
good.  
®

***Person Centered Planning***

# Traditional Service Model

New normal?

- Traditional Services involve a DDS Contract with a licensed agency that provides particular services.
- The agency takes sole responsibility for hiring, training, directing and scheduling the employees. The program's structure is established by the agency
- Examples: Group homes, work programs, day programs

## DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES



# Agency with Choice (AwC)

Offers an opportunity for people to have more involvement and share the responsibilities with a qualified Agency.

The individual/family is responsible for selecting their employees and day to day scheduling and supervising.

Agency employs and pays the worker, assumes payroll withholdings and tax and Workers Compensation responsibilities. Agency monitors budget and supports individual with questions.

AWC can support individuals to find particular activities that fit their lifestyle and schedule. A chance for new opportunities.

Offers connections and social options



# Agency with Choice

Jillian is building her independence and pursues the activities she is interested in.



- Help people design individualized services.
- supports personal choice and control.
- you decide who provides services and how they are delivered.
- Is based on the belief that individuals and families are in the best position to know about their support needs.



Jillian has a great job at TJ Maxx

Has friends and enjoys her shopping and store discount

Social Capital

Jillian's hard  
work and  
achievements



# Participant Directed Program (PDP)

A plan and budget are developed by identifying the participant's vision and support needs.

Individual makes decisions on how to use their DDS funded allocation within guidelines.

Individual/ family hire and oversee the support workers.

Individual works with the **Support Broker** on an ongoing basis to customize their services through a Person Centered Planning ... It's a partnership.

**Public Partnerships, LLC (PPL)** provides Financial Management Services.

PDP offers the most flexibility, control and independence.



# The role of a Support Broker is to assist the participant

- Develop the **vision** with the person and identify the needs
- Consider all resources and natural supports
- Help build a varied life
- Develop a budget based on needs
- Select service codes
- Identify providers
- Select employer of record
- Writing job descriptions
- Determine pay



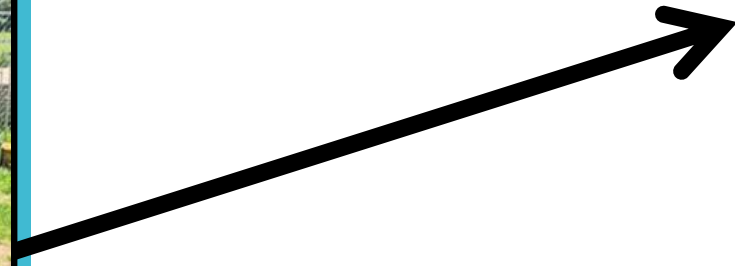


# Financial Management Services

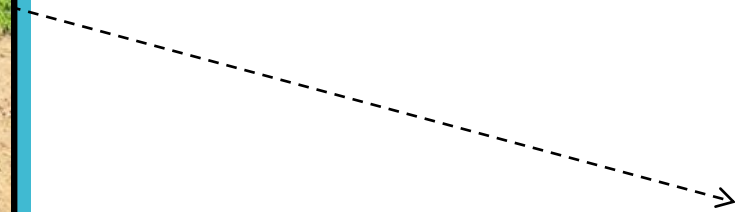
Financial Management Service- DDS has a contract  
Perform CORI and National Background check  
Process the provider applications  
Issue paychecks to providers every two weeks  
Withhold appropriate taxes at the state and federal level  
Issue W-2 and 1099 statements in January  
Provide payroll status reports throughout year  
Arrange workmen's comp for employees

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `fms.publicpartnerships.com/PPLPortal/login.aspx`. The page features the PCCG Public Partnerships logo at the top left, with the tagline "Supporting Choice. Managing Costs." Below the logo is a blue banner with a photo of people. The main content area is titled "BetterOnline™ web portal" and includes a message: "Don't forget to bookmark this page". A central login box titled "Enter Your Login Information" contains fields for "Username" and "Password", a "Forgot your username or password?" link, a "Remember username" checkbox, and "LOG IN" and "or Sign Up" buttons. To the right of the login box is a "Message Alert" box with a yellow triangle icon, stating: "On Sunday January 5th, from 12:00am EST through 7:00 AM EST, this site will be unavailable for scheduled maintenance." The footer of the page contains the PCCG Public Partnerships logo, a copyright notice for 2020, and links for "Privacy Policy", "Terms of Use", and "Contact Us".

# Creating a Vision for a Good Life- Jacob



***Vision for what I want.***  
*"To be a zookeeper. To choose my own schedule. To spend time with my family".*



***Vision of What I Don't Want***  
*"To be stuck inside. To do the same thing every day. To have to do the same thing as everyone else."*

Meaningful activities help build skills



# Pursuing interests and talents



Jacob is a  
valued  
community  
member



Now his self-directed adult world includes:

- Volunteering
- Meals on Wheels
- Animal Humane Society
- Canterbury Acres Stables
- He bakes for the elderly
- Art projects for fund raising
- Dog Biscuit Invention
- Daily living .. cooking, cleaning, shopping, budgeting, hygiene
- Fun trips .. to the Zoo , Aquarium, Dates with his girlfriend Nicole and calls and visits with his family

*“For the most part he is a happy adult with a new adult life that encompasses what is important to him.”*

# When developing a plan we consider all resources

Social Security  
MassHealth  
Insurance-private  
Housing subsidies  
Food stamps  
Fuel assistance  
Adult Family Care  
PCAs  
WIC  
Employment earnings

## Benefits:



## Other Supports:

- Family, friends, neighbors
- Co-workers
- Community Members
- Community Centers
- Technology
- Personal strengths and abilities
- Self Advocates

# Considerations

- How much responsibility is the individual/family able to assume?
- Are you willing to learn to direct his/her own services. You will have help.
- Laying the groundwork may take more time in getting started.
- Some people don't want to do a lot of work related to their services, they may prefer AWC or Traditional Services
- Combinations of services might be a good starting point
- Must prepare a back up plan



Talk with your  
Service  
Coordinator or  
Regional SD  
Managers

## Regional Self-Directed Supports Managers

- [Pamela.hickey@mass.gov](mailto:Pamela.hickey@mass.gov) CW
  - [Beverly.mcgovern@mass.gov](mailto:Beverly.mcgovern@mass.gov) NE
  - [Edward.b.Wilson@mass.gov](mailto:Edward.b.Wilson@mass.gov) SE
  - [Jennifer.r.benoit@mass.gov](mailto:Jennifer.r.benoit@mass.gov) Metro
- For more info and video samples:
    - [MASS.gov](http://MASS.gov) search: DDS Self Directed Services
    - [www.publicpartnerships.com](http://www.publicpartnerships.com)