



BPDD encouraged by MAPP reform

Media Inquiries: Beth Swedeen (608) 266-1166

(MADISON) -- Monday Governor Walker's "Wisconsin Works for Everyone" mentioned plans to reform the Medicaid Assistance Purchase Plan (MAPP) work incentive program, which enables people with disabilities to pursue jobs without jeopardizing access to health and long term care they need to work.

The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities has been working with the Department of Health Services (DHS), the Legislature, and other disability groups on changes that would improve the MAPP program. While BPDD has not seen the final language, we support the joint work between DHS and the disability community and hope to see DHS's proposal fully reflected in the Governor's budget.

The MAPP program is a "Medicaid Buy-In" program, intended to allow people with disabilities to work and still "buy-in" to Medicaid, paying a health insurance premium to access Medicaid health care. About 25 states have a Medicaid buy-in program.

Many people with disabilities rely on Medicaid-funded supports—mental health services, personal care, etc.—that are not available in the private sector market or are not available at the levels necessary or at an affordable price. Strict Medicaid asset and income limits are often cited by people with disabilities as a 'Catch 22'—they want to work and progress in a career, but employment success and reaching earning potential may jeopardize the Medicaid supports they need to work and that aren't available outside Medicaid.