

MADISON COUNTY 310 BOARD

MADISON COUNTY FOUR YEAR PLAN FOR SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES



2022 TO 2025

April 20, 2023

MADISON COUNTY
PLAN FOR SERVICES
2022-2025

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MADISON COUNTY FOUR YEAR PLAN 2022 - 2025

SECTION I

Introduction

The Madison County 310 Board is a public non-profit agency which was established by the City of Huntsville and Madison County Commission in 1990 to serve individuals in Madison County. The organization was created under Act 310 of the 1967 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature. This Act gives the Board authority to establish and maintain programs to provide services to persons with intellectual disabilities.

The Madison County 310 Board has worked with consumers, parents, advocates, services providers, and school systems to develop this Plan of Services for the next four years. Efforts have focused on a plan that is consumer/family driven and addresses the needs of people with intellectual disabilities.

The following statements have been established:

- As of 2022, the Madison County area had an estimated population of over 400,000. The population is growing at a rate of about **4.00** % per year with a median household income of **\$71,000**.
- The services that are now available in Huntsville and Madison County are not adequate for current or future needs but can be developed with adequate funding.
- Program funding guidelines such as the Medicaid Home and Community Based Waivers must be made flexible enough to encourage movement within the service delivery system.
- Funding resources must be made available for those individuals not eligible for programs provided through Medicaid Waivers.

SECTION II

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Madison County 310 Board (MC 310 Board) to promote the general welfare of each intellectually disabled person in Madison County by facilitating needed services and programs. These programs will allow the individual, or his/her family or guardian, to choose living, working, educational, or recreational options that are safe and effective, and that are provided within the local community.

Implied in the mission statement are the following Principles of Services:

1. Persons who have intellectual disabilities should be provided the supports and services needed to lead self-sufficient lives, hold jobs, participate in community life, and exercise personal choice.
2. Assistance to access a variety of services should be available within the local community to meet the needs of most individuals.
3. Supports and services that are publicly funded should complement, not displace, the natural support networks. These include family, friends, schoolmates, co-workers, and neighbors. Building on natural supports is the most powerful and effective means of assisting persons with disabilities.
4. The range of services available should enable the individual to make choices that are personalized, effective, and economical.
5. Services shall promote maximum integration of people with developmental disabilities into all aspects of community life. Personal economic independence, productivity, and self-sufficiency shall be promoted.
6. Efforts shall be made to have appropriate governmental agencies provide persons with intellectual disabilities effective personal security including the right to live and work in a safe and secure environment, reliable health services, and protection from abuse/neglect and economic exploitation.
7. Service systems should attempt to ensure that the human, civil, and legal rights of persons with intellectual disabilities are recognized, protected, and respected.

SECTION III

VISION STATEMENT

1. To act as the point of entry in Madison County for individuals with intellectual disabilities who are seeking services.
2. To access needed services for as many eligible individuals as possible.
3. To monitor existing services for quality and ensure their health and safety.
4. To support providers in the development of new services/resources based on the needs of the individuals the agency serves.

SECTION IV

AGENCY GOALS

1. MC 310 Board plans to access and facilitate needed services for as many eligible individuals as possible as directed by the Department of Mental Health.
2. MC 310 Board will assist all families and individual who are seeking services in Madison County through the utilization of a full-time staff position (Intake Coordinator - IC). This position is partially funded through the auspices of the Huntsville City Council and the Madison County Commission. The primary role is to assist families with enrollment to the DMH Statewide Waiting List. This includes items such as intake appointments, collection of documentation, and completion of assessments necessary to meet DMH eligibility requirements. Once the individual is on the waiting list, the IC maintains contact and updates information as needed to ensure appropriate placement on the Waiting List. The IC also maintains relationships with other agencies such as ADRS, three school systems, DHR and other local resources to assist the individual in integrating and participating in their community. The IC provides information, identifies resources and makes referrals to other community agencies/services as needed and maintains a resource manual to assist individuals, families, and providers.
3. MC 310 Board will monitor existing Waiver services through support coordination. Consumer satisfaction surveys will also be sent to individuals/families to determine their satisfaction with support coordination services. A needs assessment survey for those waiting for services will be conducted by the Intake Coordinator to assess an individual's current and future needs.

4. MC 310 Board will maintain support to providers to maintain and improve existing programs through dissemination of information and training opportunities.

SECTION V

SERVICE PHILOSOPHY

1. Individuals with intellectual disabilities are recognized as persons with basic human needs, aspirations, desires, and feelings. They are citizens of our community who have all the rights, privileges, opportunities and responsibilities given to other citizens.
2. Family units, both traditional and nontraditional, are frequently the most important resource and support to individuals with intellectual disabilities.
3. Informed choices made by consumers and their families/advocates, as well as their rights, values, and needs, are of primary concern in the development and operation of services.
4. Services must show sensitivity to members of minority or ethnic groups, elderly persons, or individuals with multiple disabilities such as autism, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and mental illness.
5. Local communities are the most knowledgeable regarding their local environment, available opportunities, and the strengths or deficiencies of the service system.

SECTION VI

ASSUMPTIONS

In the development of this Four-Year Plan, the following issues were considered:

1. Funding currently received from the Alabama Department of Mental Health will be maintained at current levels or decreased.
2. Madison County is a pilot county for the CWP Waiver which was implemented October 2021. This means that that ID & LAH waiver slots are no longer available to individuals who reside in this county.
3. The Plan is an evolving document, which is subject to periodic revision based on new information.

SECTION VII

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES AND POPULATION SERVED

The Madison County 310 Board in its Certificate of Incorporation outlines, under Section V. Programs and Services, programs the agency will implement and the purposes for which the agency was formed. The area of service is limited to Madison County with an estimated population of over 400,000 people, with the targeted population being all persons with intellectual disabilities, who meet the eligibility criteria for such services. In those cases where individuals and/or family members are not appropriate for existing DMH services every effort will be made to provide an appropriate referral. Specific areas of service are:

- Provide a single point of entry to all DMH funded services provided to people with intellectual disabilities. Conducts and assists families in arranging for various assessments required for eligibility determination.
- Support Coordination provides services to targeted groups of individuals with a diagnosis of intellectual disabilities. Such services include needs assessment, case planning, service arrangement, social support, reassessment and follow-up, and monitoring. At the current time, only individuals receiving services through either the ID or LAH Medicaid Waivers are provided with support coordination services as funded by DMH & Medicaid. Individuals who currently receive no services are assisted by the Intake Coordinator as needed and able. The CWP Waiver has case management provided by DMH staff.
- Other Functions: Provide limited financial assistance to eligible individuals for specific items such as food, dental care, housing, and clothing assistance.

SECTION VIII

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

The Madison County 310 Board requests input into the planning process through letter and personal contact from individuals, family members or guardians, as well as from various agencies and school systems. Input into the planning process involves, but is not limited to, the following:

A needs assessment was sent in June 2021 by the Intake Coordinator to all families who currently receive no services and are on the DMH Statewide Waiting List to assess their current and future needs. This survey was used to determine categories of need and

demand for those needs. This agency also had its first public meeting since Covid on April 20, 2023 and updated its' need assessment data based on feedback from the meeting.

METHODOLOGY

The method used in this plan consists of need assessment surveys and data collected by the Intake Coordinator and support coordination staff.

MONITORING

A sample of consumer satisfaction surveys are conducted by support coordinators for those individuals currently receiving Waiver and support coordination services annually. The purpose of the survey is to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of support coordination services provided by this agency. All DMH providers are required to conduct their own consumer satisfaction surveys per DMH standards.

The plan is monitored through the use of consumer satisfaction surveys, waiting list data and support coordination reviews. The Board of Directors receives and reviews monthly reports regarding services needed and requested. The agency's annual budget is formulated to address the needs of the individuals in Madison County within financial constraints.

UNMET NEEDS

The greatest areas of unmet need in Madison County are (1) day services such as traditional day habilitation, job placement, or after school; (2) residential services such as assisted living, boarding and group homes; (3) in-home supports such as respite and personal care; (4) community supports such as recreation, support groups and transportation and (5) professional services such as attorney, dentist, psychiatrist and vision.

CURRENT AND FUTURE FUNDING RESOURCES

Madison County 310 Board currently receives funding from DMH for Support Coordination services. This agency receives some local funding from the Huntsville City Council and the Madison County Commission. Unfortunately, given the current economic climate, this agency expects level funding or cuts from all its funding sources. The Madison County 310 Board will make every attempt to maintain quality services and assist individuals as requested.

SECTION IX

WAITING LIST ASSESSMENT

Currently, the Madison County 310 Board maintains the waiting list for persons with intellectual disabilities to receive services in Madison County. This agency assists in placing individuals who are requesting services onto the State Waiting List of which there are currently 157 individuals.

Individuals completing their school program in special education average about fifty persons each year. This includes Madison County, Huntsville City and Madison City Schools. Of this number, it is estimated by trends from past years that about 30%, or about eighteen individuals, will seek services each year. An estimated 5-10 individuals each month, due to the tremendous growth in Madison County, may also need services because of changes in the family situation, moving into the geographic area, or health of aging parents.

There are also individuals who are currently in a school program that are requesting in-home services prior to graduation such as personal care, respite, and medical supplies.

The following table illustrates projected needs for numerous services based on data obtained from the March 2023 DMH state waiting list for Madison County and estimates of growth. DMH did not pull the waiting list since Covid started in 2020. The CWP Waiver was implemented in October 2021 and therefore no ID or LAH Waiver slots have been provided to Madison County citizens. The CWP Waiver has been provided to 36 individuals since its start in late 2021, most individuals are only receiving support coordination, CESG and employment supports.

Service Requested	2022	2023	2024	2025
Day	118	117	120	125
Residential	70	68	75	80
Support services	100	102	115	125

It is the position of the Madison County 310 Board that all persons deserve equal opportunity to obtain services based on need and not eligibility for funding source. A significant increase in federal and state funding will be required to support the projected service needs for these individuals.

The Madison County 310 Board recognizes that many families and individuals have needs other than ID services that are not being met. Examples are dental and medical services, food, clothing and housing needs and recreational services. The Board has

allocated funding each year for these unmet needs. For FY 20 through FY22, Madison County 310 Board spent over \$145,000 on these needs, this included pandemic supplies and supports. This agency puts together about 45-50 food boxes for Thanksgiving and Christmas for families in need each year. This agency also gives holiday gift bags for all individuals receiving services from this agency. The support coordinators also coordinate sponsorships and purchases gifts for those in need during the holiday season and conduct fundraising to purchase these items.

SECTION X

PROJECTED SERVICE BASE AND COSTS

FY 2022 THROUGH FY 2025

Narrative: The current service base of all providers within Madison County should continue to grow based on historical data. The projections contained within this segment of the plan are based on existing waiting list individuals' desires as well as community service provider capabilities, as well as those of Madison County 310 Board, in meeting the needs of the residents of Madison County. Whereas a considerable increase in federal and state money is needed to support these projections, it is felt that they are feasible. It will become the responsibility of consumers, family members, advocates, professionals, legislators, and current and future Administrations to ensure that no one with an intellectual disability in Alabama is left without services.

In addition to providing support coordination, this agency employs a full-time dedicated Intake Coordinator (IC). Their role is to ensure an individual is placed on the DMH Statewide Waiting List, as appropriate. The IC provides ongoing support including information, referrals and local resources for individuals awaiting services as well as those who do not qualify for services from the DMH DD Division. The IC also works with other state and local agencies to develop, maintain, and improve services in Madison County as well as assist in crisis situations. The Madison County Waiting List at the beginning of FY22 had 155 individuals not receiving any DMH Waiver Services. This number has remained fairly constant as individuals are placed on the CWP Waiver; others are added to the Madison County Waiting List.

This agency, at the direction of DMH, ceased all subcontracts to provide conflict-free support coordination services for individuals who receive Medicaid Waiver services. This has severely limited this agency's ability to fund its operations at the non-enhanced rate of reimbursement for this service. Enhanced support coordination rates due to Covid funding have been used to increase pay scales and award bonuses to promote retention of quality staff. If these increased rates are not maintained this agency will be severely impacted due to the current high cost of living in Madison County, the fastest growing county in Alabama.

SUPPORT COORDINATION: Within Madison County, approximately 380 individuals receive funded targeted case management at the end of FY22 through this agency.

Fiscal Year	FY 22	FY 23	FY 24	FY25
# CM Funded	380	375	360	350
Total Agency Cost	\$1,177,000	\$1,250,000	\$1,300,000	\$1,350,000
Increase				
Rate Paid	\$72.84	\$72.84	\$72.84	\$72.84
Estimate CM revenue	\$1,118,000	\$1,158,000	\$1,175,000	\$1,200,000
Projected Loss	-\$59,000	-\$92,000	-\$125,000	-\$150,000

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES AND DAY SERVICES: All residential and day services are provided by entities that contract directly with the Department of Mental Health so there is no cost data provided.

OCCUPATIONAL, PHYSICAL, AND SPEECH THERAPIES, IN-HOME RESPITE AND GROUP HOME RESPITE, AND PERSONAL CARE: These services are provided by entities that contract directly with the Department of Mental Health so there is no cost data provided. All these services are listed under support services in Section IX. Unfortunately, there are currently no providers for any therapies nor group home respite in Madison County.

SPECIAL MEDICAL EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES: DMH requires that support coordination agencies no longer provide Waiver services. Individuals currently obtain these supports from approved Medicaid Waiver providers.