

IMPACT OF NEW DDWAIVER STANDARDS

- Incorrect placement of individuals into categories which dictate service levels.
- Drastic reduction of hours for individuals to receive Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy.
- Replacing therapy from a Master's level practitioner to high school graduates.
- Lengthy, prior authorization process which will result in an additional cost to the State and create a gap in therapy services.
- Access to therapy services reduced by using results from the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS): an instrument which was not designed for dictating access to therapies.

These new standards will result in:

- ❖ Regression of skills for people with disabilities.
- ❖ Direct support staff unqualified to provide therapeutic intervention will provide therapy.
- ❖ Increased risk for aspiration and choking which could result in various illnesses or death.
- ❖ Increase in health issues such as bowel impaction, placing individuals at risk.
- ❖ Decreased range of motion which could result in severe limitations to the individual.
- ❖ Speech Pathologists, Occupational Therapists and Physical Therapists required by the State to practice outside their scope of practice.
- ❖ Increased risk to the State of New Mexico for costly litigation.