Projected Service Needs List (PSNL)

Special education services are an entitlement. Funding for long term services are not guaranteed or an entitlement. They are provided based on need and availability of funding.

**Identifying Service Needs:** The state legislature relies on information submitted by the 10 Area Agencies to develop a state budget that will support the needs of individuals whom are eligible for developmental services. The legislature develops budgets within a biennium (every two years). They rely on information for the upcoming 4 years.

**What does this mean to me?**

1. In order to plan for services, Gateways Community Services must enter each individual into a statewide registry called the Projected Service Needs List (PSNL). It documents what type, frequency, and funding the individual will need for long term services and when they need those services to start.
2. We are required to have this information entered into the registry at the age of 16 or earlier if exiting high school prior to the age of 21.
3. If individuals are not entered into the registry, when the legislature develops the budget for developmental services there will be a shortage of funding.
4. Information entered in the registry can be edited anytime and should be updated at least annually.
5. Gateways Community Services cannot enter someone into the state registry without the permission of the guardian or individual.
6. Only Gateways Community Services can enter an individual into the registry, therefore it is crucial to develop a relationship with your service coordinator. They will help guide you in gathering the information needed.

**Projected Services Needs List VS Waitlist – What’s the difference?**

The difference is simple. When the date you need services is in the future you are on the Projected Services Needs List (PSNL). If the date you need services is in the past, you are officially waiting for services and are considered on the Waitlist. The media and legislature use these terms interchangeably at times, but they are different.

**Funding is not a guarantee, what can you do to advocate?**

- Advocate staying in school until you have completed a transition plan that prepares your son/daughter for adult life.
- Contact your Family Support Service Coordinator on a monthly basis to ensure they are aware of your son/daughter’s future service needs, including graduation plans.
- Include your service coordinator as an active part of your team.
- Provide your Family Support Coordinator with all current evaluations (within three years).
- Update your PSNL request as things change.
- Contact your local representative to the legislature (We can provide contact information)
  1. Inform the representative of anticipated needs and what will happen if funding is not available to provide services for your son/daughter.
  2. Ask your legislator to support funding the Waitlist.
  3. Attend hearings whenever possible.
- Join the Gateways Family Advocacy Network (G- FAN) to get emails and information on activities and support to communicate and advocate.