



Minnesota Association of County
Social Service Administrators

Counties Unique Role in Case Management: A MACSSA Policy Statement

Developmental Disabilities Case Management

What is Developmental Disabilities Case Management?

Based on the Rule 185 definition of eligibility for case management, Developmental Disability Case Management is for persons with a developmental disability or related condition designed to assist them in gaining access for daily living to needed social, medical, educational vocational, and other supports and services. County levy dollars may fund portions of the person's plan of care, and this population frequently relies on certain Medicaid waivers to lend financial support to the client plan of care.



Supported by diagnostic conclusions and evaluations, a developmental disability is a diagnosis characterized by substantial functional limitations and significantly sub-average intellectual functioning that exist concurrently with demonstrated deficits in adaptive behavior with all conditions manifested before the person's 22nd birthday.

The county case manager works to minimize the impact of the disability on the person's life while assuring continuity of services and supports for the person. Persons with a developmental disability tend to have a lifelong engagement in case management.

Unique Characteristics of Developmental Disabilities Case Management

- **Experience:** Frequently paired with the provision of Medicaid Home and Community Based services, Counties have tenure in providing Developmental Disabilities Case Management in Minnesota. In recent years some counties have begun contracting out this service set, while still overseeing the quality of services provided. Case management professionals were key to facilitating the de-institutionalization of this group of citizens as Minnesota.

- **Collaboration:** People engaged in developmental disabilities case management rely on case management professionals to be advocates for community access, inclusion and person centered outcomes. Often, this type of case management is viewed as a lifelong service.
- **Strong Provider Partnerships:** Individuals receiving this service rely on the case manager's ability to forge strong provider partnerships on their behalf. Counties and case managers throughout the state have built strong partner networks to provide essential resources for each individual served.

What Does Success Look Like?

Effective case management is measured in part by the person's successes in obtaining and maintaining community-based living in a setting of their choice, pursuing vocational goals, effectively addressing health needs, and achieving community integration. There is a pronounced social reliance on the individual case manager's professional skills of brokering, advocacy, community organizing, empowering others, and their ability to develop an effective treatment team to deliver a comprehensive, person centered case plan. Minnesota relies on these case management professionals to understand and implement the recent court rulings pertaining to Olmstead and the Jensen settlement.

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Example from the Field...

Mani lived in one of Minnesota's state hospitals for the first 30 years of his life, then moved to a home in the community. Mani was young and wanted to work, therefore an employment day program was a primary need. Although he had numerous physical and emotional challenges, the case manager engaged a team of people to address these barriers. His new home was not served by special transportation, so the case manager was instrumental in establishing a transit option just for him. Additionally, vehicle adaptations and ongoing behavioral program training for persons working with Mani were secured through case management. Mani resided the last 20 years of his life in a community based group home, successfully going to work each day and enjoying earning a paycheck. ▲



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