

[AdonisTBrown@verizon.net](mailto:AdonisTBrown@verizon.net) Tue, 17 Oct 2006 16:22:49

Q: To Whom It May Concern:

I thought that for once state government was making a good effort to empower persons with disabilities to truly be able to take charge of their perspective lives. But it seems that in NC it is just business as usual with all its institutional biases. With all the hard work that has been done in NC by Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and their bailing out NCVR/IL in the Nursing Home Transitioning Project that they were not included in the MFP demonstration grant writing process. No one has better experience at transitioning than CILs.

The low numbers projected in the MFP Abstract are a poor excuse for the state of NC not trying very hard to meet the needs and hopes of the disability community. As a person with a disability and an advocate for pwds I am not pleased by the actions or the lack thereof by our state government to reform Medicaid or the discriminatory, institutional biased grandfather laws that are currently on the books holding elderly and disabled persons in institutions, a life not of their own choosing.

I know that **Money Follows the Person** is a great move for change in NC and the country, but I can not endorse what I've seen by the state of NC thus far. Where is the MFP Demonstration Grant Draft that was promised to the disability community and its advocates by October 16th, 2006 for review? It is my sincere hope that legislation for MFP and MECASSA are passed in NC, and very soon.

**A: North Carolina is making headway to frame the future system that will place home and community as a first option for care and institutional placement as the last option. Reworking all the policies, regulations, and business/work flows, as well as staff resources and training needs will take a tremendous effort on the part of many people within the government systems and among the providers of services. Now is not the time to be critical of a process that has just gotten off the ground and a process that will take a number of years. The entire first year of the MFP Demonstration project will be spent on planning and moving NC into a new delivery system for long term care services and supports. The CILS will have a role to play as will many other providers of critical services and these roles will be defined during the pre-implementation phase of the Demonstration project.**

**We hope to have the rough draft of the application narrative ready for posting by Close of Business tomorrow - lots of long hours and tedious work is still going on to get this application prepared for approval by the Secretary.**

**Lynne Perrin**