

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

3 HOUSE CONCURRENT  
4 RESOLUTION 1013

By: Nelson of the House

5 and

6 Treat of the Senate

7  
8  
9 AS INTRODUCED

10 A Concurrent Resolution relating to Developmental  
11 Disabilities Services Division; recognizing the  
12 problem of a lengthy waiting list for waiver  
13 services; stating findings of Governor's Blue Ribbon  
14 Panel for Developmental Disabilities; requesting  
15 Department of Human Services to implement a waiting  
16 list based on a Prioritization of Need ranking; and  
17 directing distribution.

18 WHEREAS, the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel for Developmental  
19 Disabilities was appointed to develop a comprehensive plan to  
20 support individuals with intellectual disabilities and their  
21 families and issue recommendations to address Oklahoma's lengthy  
22 waiting list for waiver services through the Developmental  
23 Disabilities Services Division of the Department of Human Services;  
24 and

1       WHEREAS, the waiting list for waiver services consists of  
2 approximately 7,000 men, women, and children with intellectual  
3 disabilities from across the state requesting services; and

4       WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Panel for Developmental Disabilities  
5 sunset on April 1, 2015, and the Panel issued a list of  
6 recommendations, including the crucial recommendation to prioritize  
7 the waiting list for waiver services instead of focusing on the date  
8 of application; and

9       WHEREAS, given the goal of supporting individuals and families,  
10 the use of "first come, first served" as the criteria for admission  
11 to the waiver list is counter-productive. The person with the next  
12 date may have no significant unmet needs, while the person whose  
13 date is years behind may have great need. Failure to address more  
14 significant needs could result in emergency services at an increased  
15 cost; and

16       WHEREAS, it is the Panel's opinion that waiver services must be  
17 used for individuals whose needs cannot be met through existing  
18 formal or informal supports available to them through the  
19 Developmental Disabilities Services Division nonwaivered services,  
20 other agencies, or other community resources. The Panel believes a  
21 needs-based prioritization is necessary to serve the state's  
22 population of individuals with developmental disabilities in an  
23 equitable manner. Of particular interest to the Panel are those  
24 strategies used by the state of Missouri, which include the use of a

1 Prioritization of Need (PON) document to rank how much support or  
2 assistance the individual needs; and

3 WHEREAS, current emergency admission criteria for waiver  
4 services is based on the most dire of circumstances related to the  
5 health and safety of individuals and their primary caretakers. This  
6 leaves addressing levels of serious but not dire circumstances to  
7 the happenstance of application date. Even in an environment of  
8 scarce resources, a system that prioritizes need and provides  
9 services accordingly would further the mission of maintaining  
10 families as caregivers. The Panel recommends the criteria for  
11 expedited Developmental Disabilities Services Division waiver  
12 services be amended to take into account the age of the applicant,  
13 the age of the caregiver, the medical condition of the caregiver,  
14 and significant life events.

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
16 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 55TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE  
17 CONCURRING THEREIN:

18 THAT the Department of Human Services implements a waiting list  
19 for Developmental Disabilities Services Division waiver services  
20 that ranks individuals based on a Prioritization of Need (PON) and  
21 takes into account the age of the applicant, the age of the  
22 caregiver, the medical condition of the caregiver, and significant  
23 life events.

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THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Director of  
the Department of Human Services.

55-1-7531            EK            05/15/15