Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services: Help for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Pat Morse: The second screen that you are going to see after you click on ‘Help for Texans’ show boxes that separate the help that you might need. The first one is ‘Help for People with Medical or Physical Disabilities.’ The second one is ‘Help for People with IDD,’ and that is Intellectual Developmental Disabilities. So, if you have a student who from birth, before the age of twenty-two, have the inability to have the same as other age students would have – the same functional capabilities for self-care, feeding communicating, walking – those types of activities of daily living. Then, you might have had a teacher tell you that your child will be evaluated for a developmental disability. So that is what that means. The third screen is actually for people who are older than sixty, so we won’t be discussing that today. For the even that you would need it for someone in your family, that is the box you would have. The fourth box is types of help available. My suggestion is where you want to focus is either the first one whether it is a medical or physical disability, or the second one ‘Help for People with IDD.’

You will need to decide that, or talk to your teacher for you student and decide which one that would be. Types of help available is very important because it separates if you need a caregiver support, if it’s a child, if it’s a young adult, if you need a day program, if you need specific medical needs, et cetera and so forth. So, you can scroll down the menu and you can determine ‘what kind of help might I need? What kind of help might I need right now? What kind of help might I need when my child is twenty-two and ages out of the system?’ For our purposes, let’s look at ‘Help for People with IDD,’ because what is hard to understand but very crucial for parents is if they have a child that has a developmental disability they may in the future need significant amount of care. It may be modifications to a home, or it may be adaptive aids. It may be assistive technology so that the person can be successful in school or college. It might be caregiving, it might be someone who has significant medical needs and maybe your insurance is not going to cover all of that. So, depending on what your situation is let’s say we are going to click on ‘Help for people with IDD’ and ‘Where can I get services?’ That will take us to the next screen, and at the very top it says ‘Help for Texans,’ and ‘Where can I get services if I have IDD.’

It will scroll down on the menu for Community ICF. An Intermediate Community Facility is an ICF. Those are usually a little bit larger group residences, and it is a state rate per day on those kind of programs. It’s all encompassing for day program, for assistance with vocational services, et cetera. It goes through who monitors the ICFs, what your rights are, et cetera. So, moving on in terms of the actual DADs website, after the interest list category then they talk about service planning, and group homes. One thing that I think parents are encouraged by in the state of Texas under Medicaid Waiver is that a group residence under IDD services, if it is under Home and Community Service Waive, is a regular house in a regular neighborhood with no more than four individuals living there. It is twenty-four hour shift staff, but four individuals who pay rent at that home. The reason I am saying that is a lot of parents when you start talking about Medicaid waiver, or the possible need for group residence in the future, they envision an institution, or they envision a very large intermediate care facility. That is not what Home and Community Services is all about. It is very important to be informed accurately, or ask the
questions to DADs, or let me know if you have any more specific questions on that. In terms of
the website it goes the whole way through ‘Rights’, and then it goes to ‘State Supported Living
Centers’. The closest state supported living center in our catchment would be Washington
Country, and that is the Brenham States Supported Living Center. What parents and guardians
need to be aware of although it is on the website that takes a court order for someone because
that is institutional care. It does tell you on the website what you would need to do in order to
apply, or find out more information.