

Stakeholder Comments received for Doc 09 MSB 19-01-08-A

Families that may only be able to do one these activity together? Because of funding, supports and

Reasons I don't support it is because

It hurts social development to those out side of the home. It isolates those with disabilities. We all know that can lead to a whole new set of problems. It also takes the family as a whole and disrupts it. To lo many families suffer the hardship of always having to give up fun days and times because of budget. It is very difficult to also have help. By covering the family in this area you also support the parents that are caregivers in many cases and need and outlet as well. Healthy, supported caregivers have less stress and less worries. We also are always going so it is well deserved.

We deserve to just enjoy as a family and not have lea and less pulled away from us.

ii. Recreational needs of the individual with an IDD or Developmental Delay when the need of recreation is above and beyond the typical need due to the disability or delay. The cost of recreation for family members is excluded.

iii. Specialized services as identified by the FSC and CCB, included in their written policy and are available to any family receiving ongoing Family Support Services Program assistance in the service area

Jenny

Hello,

My name is Cassandra Locks and my son Reuben Locks Jr is a client with The Resource Exchange. We were advised that the YMCA family memberships, zoo memberships and other memberships will no longer be available, that the coverage will only be for Reuben who is 10 years old.

Reuben is not allowed to be at the YMCA by himself and our family of 7 can not afford to pay for memberships on our own. My son is Autistic, has ADHD and Sensory Processing Disorder losing the membership will be devastating to him and us as that is one of few things that he enjoys doing. Reuben is the middle child of 5 kids so as a family, we support him in all that he enjoys. Please think of my son and our family before making these changes.

Our family benefits from this membership as well, we are able to stay physically active by using the pool and many other services the YMCA offers. Since starting the YMCA membership Reuben has been able to calm his tics down and it's also been a great incentive when it comes to positive behavior in school.

The journey with a special needs child/family member is not an easy one, the membership along with other things makes it a lot easier for all of us. Please don't take this away. There are many other families like ours that benefit from this in more ways than words can express.

Sincerely,

Cassandra Locks

The mother of a beautiful boy who, as he says, doesn't have special needs, he's just special.

Good morning!

This email is sent in regards to the changes the state is proposing in the use of family support services - limiting memberships to only the individual receiving support services.

Our son receives support services from the Resource Exchange (in Colorado Springs), and we use that to give him access to the YMCA. We have opted to use it this way because of the significant discount received through the TRE, thus freeing up our personal finances for therapies. Since our son is a minor and cannot use the YMCA by himself, we have to use a family membership and use the funds for this purpose. Should the state limit the use of the funds to just our son, we would not be able to utilize the YMCA for him. We ask that you consider leaving the program as it currently is.

We would also like to mention that our son has Autism and a significant communication disorder. The fact that his neurotypical sister can participate with him in the YMCA activities helps lower his anxiety, helps him communicate, and gives him better access to activities that would be difficult for him to enjoy without her support. Limiting her access will also impact him.

Personally, we find it very concerning that the state considers that a child with a disability is an individual problem. Having a child with a disability impacts the whole family system. Many families like ours who don't qualify for Medicaid or Social Security, but have high healthcare deductibles have to spend all their discretionary income on therapies and medical services. That impacts all family members, including siblings.

Please consider viewing the impact of the disability at a systemic (family) level. We understand that the amount of financial resources provided for our child may not be impacted. However, allowing flexibility on how the money is spent will give families much needed support and help them prioritize enrichment activities that would otherwise be neglected in favor of therapies.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our concerns.

Adam and Vasti Holstun

Hello,

My name is Laura Lazechko. I'm the mother to a 4 year old little girl named Lanie with a rare chromosomal abnormality. Lanie functions at about a 6-9 month old level. I could not leave her alone or send her to a place alone. I understand that one of the rules changes for FSS funds would be to take away family memberships for various places around town. We participate in the FSS program and have a family membership at the YMCA and it has been invaluable for a myriad of reasons. Here are a few:

- Lanie loves the warm pool water. Once a week a physical therapist meets us there to do therapy with Lanie while I can safely swim with the rest of my children (I have 3 other young kids). My husband and I also like to take our kids and enjoy the pool as a family. There are many activities that we cannot do with Lanie's limitations, but swimming is something everyone enjoys!
- The doctors have projected that Lanie may never walk, which means I have to stay in good physical shape to continue to be able to safely care for my daughter. The childcare program at the Y does such a great job with Lanie while I can have a mental break and a physical workout.

-We take Lanie's walker to the gym at the Y so she can practice on a big open surface, which is not something our house has.

I attached some pictures for you to see how much pleasure, function, and respite having our Y membership has provided.

Having a family membership at the YMCA has been such a blessing to our whole family, and we would be very disappointed to lose it!

Thank you for your consideration,
Laura Lazeckho

Good morning!

I am a parent of a child with special needs who currently receives support through TRE and family support services. I would like to understand how helping family members who support the child with a disability would not be covered any longer. We do not ask for much but a few dollars that go toward our own health and well being (in our case, a gym membership) is very appreciated. I wish the people who made these decisions were parents of children with special needs. We live an entirely different life than the main population. We wouldn't change taking care of our loved ones or doing all we can to help them, so are delighted that there is any funding for their activities that we otherwise couldn't afford, so thank you for that. However, please consider keeping the provision for their caregivers receiving a little bit also

Thank you for listening!
Karen Lockhart