

“We would rather be in the company of somebody we like than in the company of the most superior being of our acquaintance. ” Frank Swinnerton

Michelle P. Waiver Brief

The Michelle P. Waiver evolved as a result of a lawsuit regarding persons with mental retardation or developmental disabilities and the lack of community based services available to person residing in the community or returning to the community after residing in an Intermediate Care Facility (ICF-MR). Persons eligible for Michelle P. must have a medical card or be eligible for one.

Once eligible for Michelle P., persons can receive services through Supports for Community Living providers, Home and Community Based Service providers, or Adult Day Health Care providers. The services that are available depend on the Waiver in which participant is receiving the services. Specific services include: Assessments and reassessments; case management; personal care; attendant care; homemaker; adult day health; adult day training; behavioral supports; environmental and minor home adaptations; community living supports; occupational therapy; physical therapy; speech therapy; supported employment and respite.

Depending upon the approach a participants takes, traditional or consumer directed option, a case manager or support broker assist in planning care plan and securing appropriate services to meet the goals of the plan of care. If consumer directed option is chosen, a participant may hire persons they know or want to provide the services. The Support Broker assist those who select consumer directed option. Some services are limited to a total of 40 hours per week. These services are aligned with the waiver supports from which a participant chooses and do not include any residential services. The Michelle P. Waiver was designed to assist those persons living in their own homes or the home of a family member and to assist persons to remain living in the community.

Collectively, participants cannot receive more than 40 hours per week for the following services: attendant care; personal care; homemaker services; adult day health; adult day training; behavioral supports; community living supports; occupational therapy, physical therapy; speech therapy; and supported employment. This does not mean that every participant has access to all services but is dependent on which waiver service is sought to meet the needs of the participant. It is important to become familiar with all waiver services when making the decision for care in the home of the participant.

Persons interested in the Michelle P. Waiver should contact their local mental health center to inquire of the initial process and how to secure the services. An initial access will be done to determine eligibility for the available services. Once eligibility is determined, traditional or consumer directed option may be selected and services may begin after proper process has been completed.