



Supporting Pennsylvania's Human Services Community

Tom Corbett believes that meeting the human service needs of vulnerable Pennsylvanians is a core responsibility of state government. Through strong public-private partnerships and collaborative efforts with family members and community service organizations, Pennsylvania can work to respect, empower and provide services as equitably as possible to this important part of our citizenry.

Dedicating his career to protecting Pennsylvanians, Tom Corbett has spent much of his attention on protecting our most vulnerable citizens. As Attorney General, he has focused on Medicaid fraud, child predators, victim assistance services, elder abuse and other protective services within the Office of Consumer Advocate in the Office of the Attorney General and ensured enforcement of Pennsylvania's addiction treatment laws. As Governor, Tom Corbett will continue his commitment to ensuring that all Pennsylvanians are protected through a full evaluation of Pennsylvania's human services system – working with stakeholders to find new opportunities for partnerships and better integration across state agencies. He believes that people should live independently in community based settings whenever possible, and he also will encourage Pennsylvania colleges and universities to offer curricula that will provide for an ongoing, well-trained workforce. In addition, Tom Corbett will call for a comprehensive review of publicly funded institutional placements and, where necessary, develop a plan to comply with the *Olmstead* decision in which the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that unnecessary institutionalization violates the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Tom Corbett's human services plan will work to provide the necessary support and assistance that Pennsylvania's citizens need and deserve. It focuses on the following seven areas:

- Modernizing Medicaid to Help Human Services
- Supporting Citizens with Intellectual Disabilities
- Supporting Behavioral Health Needs
- Assisting Pennsylvanians with Physical Disabilities
- Supporting Pennsylvanians with Autism
- Supporting Children and Youth
- Utilizing Technology

MODERNIZING MEDICAID TO HELP HUMAN SERVICES

Medical Assistance, both state and federal dollars, provides for a wide array of health and other human services programs in Pennsylvania. Nearly one out of every six Pennsylvanians – more than two million people – currently are eligible for Medicaid, with most Medicaid eligible citizens being children, senior citizens and people with disabilities. As Governor, Tom Corbett will modernize Pennsylvania's Medicaid program to ensure that it is administered effectively and cost-efficiently while providing for the most vulnerable people. He will engage the private sector, both profit and nonprofit, in seeking innovative solutions to make Pennsylvania's Medicaid program a national leader. He will work to achieve these goals through the initiatives outlined below.

- ✓ Review all Medicaid programs. Tom Corbett will direct the Secretary of Public Welfare to conduct a thorough review of all Medicaid-related programs within the Department of Public Welfare (DPW) to determine their efficiency, cost-effectiveness and ability to provide the best human services programs.
- ✓ Stop fraud and abuse. As Governor, Tom Corbett will continue to stop fraud and abuse among consumers and providers while providing regulatory relief and incentives where compliance is evident. He will work with the Pennsylvania's Inspector General to assist in rooting out fraud and abuse within the welfare system.
- ✓ Determine services for continuation. Tom Corbett will direct the Secretary of Public Welfare to determine services for continuation while complying with the Federal requirement of maintenance of effort.
- ✓ Focus on healthcare reform. As Governor, Tom Corbett will direct interagency coordination of healthcare reform and determine how best to manage Medicaid in the healthcare reform environment.

SUPPORTING CITIZENS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

Intellectual disability is characterized by significant limitations both in intellectual functioning and in adaptive behavior – covering many everyday social and practical skills. This disability originates before the age of 18 and affects up to one out of every 30 families in Pennsylvania.

Community-based services, as opposed to state run institutions, are now the mainstream and are the most cost-effective and preferred services by individuals with disabilities and their families. Over 50,000 individuals with intellectual disabilities receive community-based services, while 1,200 are still served in state institutions.

As of May 2010, there were over 17,500 Pennsylvanians with intellectual disabilities waiting for services. Of that number, nearly 3,500 were determined to have "emergency" needs for services, with nearly 400 of them having caregivers over the age of 60. Over 8,300 Pennsylvanians with intellectual disabilities will have "critical" needs for services within approximately one year. State and federal appropriations total more than \$2 billion for all services related to Office of Developmental Programs (ODP).

Tom Corbett values all children and adults with intellectual disabilities as fully participating members of society. He understands their desire to self-direct their lives and achieve their potential and will work to provide them with the support they need. As Governor, Tom Corbett will work with stakeholders to ensure that funding is effectively and efficiently utilized in programs to meet the needs of individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families. He will work to achieve these goals through the initiatives outlined below.

- ✓ Promote range of work opportunities. Individuals with intellectual disabilities should be supported to live as independently as possible, guided by the principles of self-determination, community-integration and inclusion. As Governor, Tom Corbett will promote the concept of having a relevant and meaningful range of work opportunities in the community for adults with intellectual disabilities.
- ✓ Streamline reimbursement and regulatory environment. As Governor, Tom Corbett will work to streamline, reduce the complexity and take a comprehensive look at the reimbursement and regulatory environment for human services providers.
- ✓ Explore pilot service models. Tom Corbett will work with all stakeholders to explore possible pilot service models that are integrated, comprehensive, delivery systems, which demonstrate cost effectiveness, consumer satisfaction, innovation, capacity and affordability.
- ✓ Address the waiting lists. As Governor, Tom Corbett will call for the creation of a plan to address the long waiting lists plaguing the commonwealth's disability community.
- ✓ Assist with transitions to adult life. As Governor, Tom Corbett will work to ensure that young adults with intellectual disabilities leaving special education are not left without support after high school to enable them to make the transition into adult life.
- ✓ Support early intervention. As Governor, Tom Corbett will support early intervention services with policies that make sense through a comprehensive look at these programs' structure, clinical model and financing.

SUPPORTING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS

Behavioral healthcare refers to mental health treatment and services as well as substance abuse treatment. There are many important programs that have been critical to strengthening community/county based services such as the Community/Hospital Integration Projects Program (CHIPP), which provides greater flexibility in moving funding to community based services. As a result, more than 14,000 state hospital beds have closed and the associated dollars transferred to the community. This process not only has enabled people to be served in their own home communities, but also has been consistent with the U.S. Supreme Court *Olmstead* decision.

As Governor, Tom Corbett will recognize the importance of continuing behavioral health programs that are working effectively and seek ways in which to reorganize and improve other programs, especially those reaching out to individuals in the criminal justice system and to veterans. He will work to achieve these goals through the initiatives outlined below.

- ✓ Streamline behavioral health services. As Governor, Tom Corbett will work to streamline services at the state level by reviewing the roles agencies such as DPW, Department of Health, Department of Aging, Department of Insurance, Department of Education and the new Department of Drug and Alcohol services play in behavioral health. He will work to bring about better interagency coordination and efficiency of programs.
- ✓ Strengthen mental health and drug courts. Tom Corbett will strengthen the relationship between the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency and DPW to support the specialized mental health and drug courts for behavioral health consumers who are in the criminal justice system and ensure addiction treatment as part of sentencing throughout the criminal justice system.
- ✓ Evaluate programs for children. Supporting the behavioral health of Pennsylvania's children is critical. As Governor, Tom Corbett will direct state agencies to evaluate the appropriate utilization of programs for children.
- ✓ Support Pennsylvania's veterans. As a 13-year member of the National Guard, Tom Corbett knows the importance of assisting our veterans. As Governor, he will ensure a strong collaboration with the Veteran's Administration to effectively meet the behavioral health needs of returning veterans.
- ✓ Address the physician shortage. Young physicians faced with growing student loan debt will be attracted to other less hostile legal environments where practice costs are less. About one of every four physicians in Pennsylvania is 60 years or older and only one of every five physicians in Pennsylvania is under the age of 40. Only about two of every five physicians who completed their graduate medical education in Pennsylvania remained in the state to practice, ranking Pennsylvania 35th among all the states. As Governor, Tom Corbett will work with the healthcare community to develop incentives and

programs for physicians to practice in Pennsylvania and to retain medical students and residents trained here. He will encourage the expansion of all levels of the healthcare workforce to improve the availability of physicians, psychiatrists, nurse practitioners and other caregivers. Tom Corbett also will direct the state to reduce the unnecessary barriers and time delay licensing that impede entry to the healthcare field by certified and trained professionals.

- ✓ Address the waiting lists. As Governor, Tom Corbett will call for the development of a long-term plan to address waiting lists for addiction treatment in the Commonwealth.
- ✓ Streamline access to existing treatment. As Governor, Tom Corbett will work with stakeholders to improve access to existing addiction treatment services.

ASSISTING PENNSYLVANIANS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

Approximately two million Pennsylvanians have a physical disability. Pennsylvanians with physical disabilities want to live as independently as possible – controlling their own lives, working, learning and living in their own homes like citizens without disabilities. Issues of concern to these citizens include long-term care, housing, transportation, employment, health care and stakeholder processes to ensure policies are adopted by well-informed agencies of government.

As Governor, Tom Corbett will support Pennsylvanians with physical disabilities and ensure that they have access to the array of resources and programs they require and deserve by:

- ✓ Review all Medicaid waivers. As Governor, Tom Corbett will direct the Secretary of Welfare to review all existing Medicaid waivers that allow people with disabilities to live in the community. These important waivers include Attendant Care, Independence Waiver, Omnibus Budget Reconciliation (OBRA) Waiver and the Commcare Waiver for people with a diagnosis of traumatic brain injury.
- ✓ Support an “Independent Living” model. Tom Corbett supports the Independent Living model and developing a statewide public policy on affordable, accessible and community-integrated housing.
- ✓ Review transportation programs. As Governor, Tom Corbett will continue the “Shared Ride” program and develop solutions to eliminate the problem of not providing transportation across county lines and limited hours of service.
- ✓ Support workplace accessibility. As Governor, Tom Corbett will evaluate programs to assist small and medium businesses to purchase assistive technology devices and make

physical structure modifications to enable a person with a disability to work (outside of the traditional vocational rehabilitation model of employment assistance).

SUPPORTING PENNSYLVANIANS WITH AUTISM

According to a recent census by the Department of Public Welfare's Bureau of Autism Services, in 2005, there were nearly 20,000 Pennsylvanians diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and that by the end of 2010, the number will increase to 25,000. Prior to 2005, Pennsylvania did not have a system of care in place for people with autism. Thanks to the work of hundreds of stakeholders, including families, advocates, legislators, state government, professionals and community leaders, Pennsylvania now has a system of care in place to help the thousands of individuals with autism and their families. But there is much more work to that can and should be done.

Tom Corbett believes we must continue to support Pennsylvanians with autism by ensuring valid and timely diagnosis and access to the appropriate support and resources to meet their needs. As Governor, he will carefully consider the full range of service and funding models that make effective and efficient use of public resources – utilizing them in a manner that is highly individualized, innovative, flexible and results in the most positive impact on people's lives. Specifically, he will support individuals with ASD and their families by focusing on the following topics:

- ✓ Promote independent living. As Governor, Tom Corbett will work to ensure that individuals with autism are supported to live as independently as possible. This will be guided by the principles of self-determination, community-integration and inclusion. He also will ensure that all service models, including residential, avoid segregation and promote community integration.
- ✓ Support continuity of care within state government. As Governor, Tom Corbett will support continuity of care within state government through the DPW Bureau of Autism's strategic direction. As Governor, Tom Corbett will direct the Secretary of Welfare to promote efficiency within the department's Bureau of Autism Services and evaluate and streamline programs and services. He will look to restructure programs, such as the Early Intervention program, to ensure maximum results for individuals with autism and their families.
- ✓ Develop a 10-year plan for children with autism. The education of all Pennsylvania children is critical. As Governor, Tom Corbett will direct DPW and the Department of Education to develop a 10-year plan to ensure all young people with ASD graduating from the public education system are fully served.
- ✓ Promote equal access to resources. As Governor, Tom Corbett will ensure that autism services are sensitive and responsive to all racial, cultural and ethnic groups and provide equal access to resources.

- ✓ Streamline reimbursement and regulatory environment. As Governor, Tom Corbett will work to streamline and reduce the complexity of the reimbursement and regulatory environment for human services and work to establish service models that are individualized, responsive, flexible, dynamic, innovative and accountable.
- ✓ Work with law enforcement and the autism community. As Governor, Tom Corbett will work with the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency to determine the prevalence of children and adults with autism in the juvenile and criminal justice systems and will develop programming to address their unique needs.
- ✓ Promote workforce training. As Governor, Tom Corbett will continue his commitment to workforce development for all Pennsylvanians by promoting the concept of having a relevant and meaningful range of work opportunities for adults with autism.

Supporting Pennsylvania's Children and Youth

Services to dependent children and delinquent youth and their families are provided through county child welfare agencies throughout Pennsylvania. These agencies are licensed by the Department of Public Welfare and supervised by county commissioners. Services include prevention, placement, family reunification, adoption assistance, emergency services, child protective services and other services ordered by the courts. The majority of counties purchase direct services delivered by private agencies to meet these public mandates. This includes programs and support to keep children safe and ensure community protection. The number of abused, neglected and delinquent children to be served in 2010-2011 is estimated at nearly 286,000. Within this total, out-of-home placements are expected to be nearly 33,500 delinquent and dependent children. Funding to support these services is a complex combination of federal (including Medicaid and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)), state, and county (tax revenue) dollars.

Tom Corbett has spent much of his career protecting children. As a former U.S. Attorney, Assistant District Attorney and now as Attorney General, he has made child welfare a top priority. From prosecuting child abusers to putting child predators behind bars, Tom Corbett is dedicated to the children of Pennsylvania. As Governor, Tom Corbett will continue to protect Pennsylvania's vulnerable children who are abused, neglected or dependent. As Governor, Tom Corbett will support Pennsylvania's children and youth by focusing on the following topics:

- ✓ Ensure the safety of children. As Governor, Tom Corbett will promote the safety of at-risk and dependent children served in their own homes or in placement settings and will also promote partnerships with county judges that reflect best practices resulting in the reduction of children in placement. When children exit the child welfare system, he will promote having a permanent family through reunification, adoption or guardianship. As part of these efforts, Tom Corbett will call for an evaluation of the effectiveness of

current workforce and retention issues for child workforce in both public and private agencies.

- ✓ Evaluate funding and efficiency of the child welfare system. As Governor, Tom Corbett will direct the Secretary of Welfare to review all contracts for providing child welfare and juvenile justice services for effectiveness, cost efficiency and appropriate administrative costs. He also will leverage all federal funds to promote permanency, adoption and guardianship. In addition, he will direct the Secretary to also review the existing Needs Based Plan and Budget process to allow maximum flexibility in the provision of best practice services that advance child safety and permanency.
- ✓ Improve data collection system. Pennsylvania currently lacks the ability to determine the most effective practices in child welfare. As Governor, Tom Corbett will work to improve the statewide data collection system.

UTILIZING TECHNOLOGY IN PENNSYLVANIA'S HUMAN SERVICE PROGRAMS

The majority of large scale human service programs maintained by the commonwealth were conceived in the late 1960s and implemented during the mainframe era of the 1970s and early 1980s. To ensure interagency collaboration, efficiency and cost-effectiveness, as Governor, Tom Corbett will work to improve Pennsylvania's technology infrastructure to meet the needs of our human services community.

- ✓ Implement an Information Technology (IT) Shared Services Model. As Governor, Tom Corbett will address the IT issues identified in previous studies by consolidating previous recommendations into a plan with clearly defined timelines, measurable cost reductions, and other performance metrics. This IT plan will be part of a larger IT reform agenda that Tom Corbett will be working to implement across state government.