



2018 Minnesota State House Questionnaire

Section #1: About Yourself

Your Name: _____

District you are running in: _____

Question #1: Please provide a short background about yourself.

Question #2: What do you hope to accomplish by running for office? What will your main priorities be at the Capitol if you are elected and what committees do you hope to serve on?

Question #3: What experience or connections, if any, do you have to people with disabilities?

Section #2: Our Workforce Crisis

Question #1: Services to people with disabilities are facing a workforce crisis. Among home and community-based service providers alone, there are approximately 10,000 open positions for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs), with a turnover rate of nearly 60%. Moreover, population demographics show the number of people needing care over the next decade will outstrip those able to provide care by a 5-to-1 margin. What will you do as a legislator to address this significant challenge we are facing in providing services to people with disabilities?

Question #2: Historical government control of service reimbursement rates has already led to chronic low-wages for a highly trained workforce; and a 7 percent rate cut to waiver rates, which began to take effect in July, will take an additional \$140 million away from efforts to keep wages competitive and maintain training standards. How would you ensure that people with disabilities have the legislated financial supports to access services that increase their ability to live as independently as possible in the community for which they live.

Section #3: The Sustainability of our System

Question #1: The state’s Health and Human Service (HHS) budget continues to be one of the largest and fastest growing areas of our budget. As legislator, what do you propose to ensure that individuals with disabilities have access to high quality, community services while balancing the efforts by some to control the growth of the HHS budget?

Question #2: Our industry has seen an influx of “unfunded mandates” - items that cost providers additional money without subsequent compensation, such as the increase in minimum wage, the Affordable Care Act, and increased regulatory fees to name a few. When the government adds a new mandate what is its responsibility in supporting government funded services to pay for those mandates?

Question #3: Minnesota’s Olmstead Plan includes a broad series of key activities our state must accomplish to ensure people with disabilities are living, learning, working and enjoying life in the most integrated setting appropriate for their needs. Developed in 2015 and updated in 2017, a set of very ambitious goals and benchmarks were finalized and approved by the Minnesota courts to help ensure that the intent of the Olmstead Plan is realized. What is your role as a legislator to oversee and ensure that those goals are met?
