

with me to assist in training Ohio's county MR/DD boards in merging the principles of self-determination with Medicaid regulations to enable the effective and expanded implementation of Medicaid Home and Community Based Services waivers.

In September 2000, Mr. Arndt brought a proposal to me that he had worked on with Robin Cooper of the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services to provide a vehicle for expanding the Individual Options using primarily state and local monies as matching funds to gain additional federal monies and enroll additional individuals on the waivers targeting those who lived with aging caretakers and those with critical needs. Working in concert with me, Mr. Arndt was able to get executive and legislative support for the proposal through over 200 pages of amendments to House Bills 94 and 405 enacted in 2001. We worked cooperatively to gain enactment of necessary concepts of concrete multi-year plans, service contracts, Medicaid local administrative authority and ODMRDD reviews of the counties. County MR/DD Boards and the ODMRDD have worked cooperatively to sustain and implement these concepts with significant expansion of Medicaid Home and Community Based Services waivers.

A major task for the ODMRDD has been to ensure the fair allocation of monies for services and supports rendered. In December 2003, Mr. Arndt, in response to complaints by counties, notified me that a Medicaid rate setting rule was flawed and established outrageous rates for professional services. Over several months, Mr. Arndt worked with me and my staff to provide changes to the rule that later were adopted to create usual and customary rates. This action set the stage for the abolition of the Medicaid Community Alternative Funding System, which Mr. Arndt supported, and which has now been amended into the waiver system.

Throughout our years of working together, I was able to count on Mr. Arndt for his cooperation, loyalty and vision. He always was able to bring his knowledge and experience to create new ideas and effective ways of doing business for our system. I also knew he had the interests of people with developmental disabilities and desire to enhance their lives at the heart of his professional actions. Ohio's Developmental Disabilities system is better because of Mr. Arndt's work and vision over all of these years. I am pleased to recommend Mr. Arndt for any professional management employment or consulting position within human services and in particular the field of developmental disabilities. Please feel free to contact me at (937) 898-4725 if you need further information.

Sincerely,



Kenneth W. Ritchey
Director