

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

Hillsview Plaza, 3800 East Highway 34

c/o 500 East Capitol Avenue

Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070

Phone: (605) 773-5990 | TTY: (605) 773-6412

FAX: (605) 773-5483

Website: dhs.sd.gov

August 13, 2026

Dear DDD Community,

Thank you for reaching out and sharing your concerns about the recent federal Department of Justice communications about Olmstead and community integration. We appreciate you sharing your questions and concerns with us. We are writing today to assure you that the Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities (DHS/DDD) is not planning to make any changes to the way we deliver Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) as a result of these communications. We value community integration and the partnerships we have developed with the people we serve, their families, advocates, the Community Support Providers, Conflict Free Case Managers, and Family Support Coordinators.

South Dakota has historically been a leader in community integration. In the 1970s, after advocacy from family members, South Dakota began providing community services. In 1982, we became the fourth state in the nation to begin providing Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) through a Medicaid waiver. We are proud of this history and intend to continue to offer community-based services.

Several of you have asked if we have any more information about the recent communications. At this time, we do not have additional information. If additional information becomes available that affects South Dakota's programs, we will share it with you.

We hope that this is helpful. Please continue to reach out to us with questions.

Sincerely,

Shawnie Rechtenbaugh
Cabinet Secretary
SD Department of Human Services