

## SELF-DIRECTION INFORMATION

- I. Definition – Self-direction of services means that the participant has the authority to exercise decision making authority over some or all of his/her services and accepts the responsibility for taking a direct role in managing those services. The services include hiring, supervising and directing the workers who furnish supports. It also includes the responsibility to manage the participant-directed budget. Self-direction options must have quality support services, safety controls, back-up system, monitoring and reporting requirements.
- II. Requirements – If self-direction is an option, it must also be in the current waivers so participant can transition from MFP program to a waiver with no interruption in services. Participant must be assured of quality services, have a budget, monitoring and backup system, and be willing to be responsible for his/her care. Some states provide some limited self-direction and then provide services that participants can access for help in finding support services.
- III. Challenges for South Dakota – Currently two of our four waivers provide for self-direction so we would have to submit amendments to the other two waivers to include self-direction. Secondly, self-direction may not work in certain areas due to lack of services and support personal. Thirdly, criteria for monitoring, quality control, and back up systems would have to be developed.
- IV. Other states use of self direction:  
  
NORTH DAKOTA - Self-direction is provided for in two of their waivers – Programs for Family or Adults Directed Community Services – page will be attached of services available. The majority of MFP participants will not participate in a self-directed waiver but they will have choice of Providers – more of a person centered planning process  
  
NEBRASKA – Self-direction is an option called Participant Centered Plan. There is a team of individuals including the participant, case manager, and a service coordinator to develop an individual program plan for the participant. The participant is allowed to choose the team members. The plan includes a list of safeguards and requirements the participants must meet to participate in this program. It is much like our Individual Education Plan in special education cases.

VERMONT – Their Choices for Care program offers three options to individuals who wish to self-direct their services and supports and are able to manage the employer tasks and responsibilities: consumer directed, surrogate directed, or the Flexible Choices Program. In the home based setting, Choices for Care offers three services that may be directed by the individual (consumer-directed) or a surrogate employer: personal care, respite care, and companion services. The Flexible Choices Program has a consultant who acts as an advisor to provide assistance with all aspects of the program. The consultant will have primary responsibility for facilitating self-direction or termination of the self-direction.