

NOTE: Transition Plan workgroups will receive and review all public comment submissions pertaining to the workgroup’s setting type or content area. Many of the comments received are subject matters or considerations for the implementation phase of the Transition Plan versus decisions that need to be made in order to finalize the Systemic Assessment and Transition Plan. Furthermore, AHCCCS contends that it is preferable to incorporate these matters into the discussions and deliberations of the multi-stakeholder workgroups.

General

Reference	Stakeholder	Question(s)/Comment(s)	AHCCCS Response
Topic: Assessment			
Email 110	Non-Provider Organization (ARC of Arizona)	We appreciate the thorough review of Arizona statute, rules, regulations, policy manuals and contract provisions to determine Arizona’s state of compliance, but there is no discussion or consideration of <i>actual</i> compliance with these legal and contractual provisions. The Plan lacks any site-specific setting reviews and fails to include any methodology for identifying settings that have the effect of isolating individuals. An adequate transition plan cannot be developed without a full account of how the current system is operating as it relates to community inclusion and freedom of choice. This analysis necessarily must include a review of not only location of facilities, but facility operations, access to transportation, etc. Moreover, any meaningful review must include feedback from persons involved in and experiencing Arizona’s home and community based system. AHCCCS states that it will be randomly surveying providers and members regarding the compliance, ¹ but the stakeholder community at large has not seen or had an input into the survey and AHCCCS has not shared any survey methodology.	<p>Reference “Assessment” section in the document. A Systemic Assessment is permissible by CMS. Refer to CMS Guidance http://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid-chip-program-information/by-topics/long-term-services-and-supports/statewide-transition-plan-toolkit.pdf</p> <p>Reference “The Transition Plan” section in the document regarding site specific compliance.</p> <p>Based on various public comments, a Section was added to the final Assessment and Transition Plan. Reference section “Settings Requiring Special Considerations” of the document.</p>
Email 144	Non-Provider Organization (William E. Morris Institute for Justice and Arizona Center for Disability Law)	The proposed assessment and transition plan also raise additional concerns. First, the plan lacks any site-specific review or any methodology for identifying settings that have the effect of isolating individuals. A setting must be "integrated in and support full access to the greater community," but AHCCCS’ erroneous interpretation of this rule provides this requirement can be met if a setting is “located in a neighborhood...near private residences and businesses.” (at 13, at 48, at 80, at 113, elsewhere). The remediation proposal suggests that facilities co-located with institutions which are required to undergo heightened scrutiny can pass muster if the setting is separately licensed and operated. North Dakota Day center was separately licensed, but that was not sufficient for CMS approval as an HCBS setting. The proposed remediation is not compliant with the federal regulation, as integration is not just about location, but access more generally to the community. It must include a review of such matters as facility operations, access to transportation and ability to leave the facility. In addition, having “community” members visit a setting is not sufficient to ensure integration. Rather there should be evidence that participants are getting out/off the setting and interacting with the community.	Based on various public comments, a Section was added to the final Assessment and Transition Plan. Reference section “Settings Requiring Special Considerations” of the document.
Topic: Transition Plan			
Forum 3	Non-Provider Organization (Treasure House)	Cannot comment whether or not your 5-year plan is on target, but it is methodical. Continue seeking input.	Reference section “Overall Transition Plan” for process to obtain ongoing feedback.

Email 110	Non-Provider Organization (ARC of Arizona)	<p>We also take issue with the length of time that Arizona proposes to come into compliance. In fact, the Plan does not even contemplate beginning a transition until October 2016. Year One of the proposed transition appears to contemplate assessment, training and education work that could and should begin immediately. Year Two of the Plan appears to focus only on “paper” compliance by altering policies and contracts. Again, we believe much of this work should be done prior to October 2017. The proposed steps are known to be necessary and do not rely upon CMS approval to be undertaken. There is no reasonable explanation for delay. Further, any attention to monitoring and site-specific compliance does not appear to begin until Year Three (October 2018), with site-specific corrective action plans not contemplated until Year five (October 2021). This timeframe is not acceptable. Because the plan to identify and develop fixes occurs so very late in the process, we are unlikely to see full compliance, even by 2021. The Arc of Arizona respectfully requests that a second draft transition plan be created, based on a more robust assessment. We further request that the second draft plan include a more aggressive timeframe for compliance. Finally, another significant public comment period should be provided so that members and family members may have a more meaningful opportunity to participate in this process.</p>	<p>AHCCCS has modified the “Overall Transition Plan” section of the document to include a Preparation Phase period beginning in October 2015 and to include an accelerated time line for Person Centered Planning.</p> <p>Reference “Overall Transition Plan” and “Person Centered Planning” sections of the document.</p>
Email 110	Non-Provider Organization (ARC of Arizona)	<p>The Plan contemplates member and provider education in Year One (page 16), but no details are provided and the case manager training is not specifically referenced. The role that DDD support coordinators play is critical for successful implementation of the HCBS rules. These individuals need to be trained (and paid appropriately) to achieve these outcomes. The Plan does not identify specific measures that will be taken to improve the case management process as it related to personal choice and integration. There should be an active campaign to educate members about their rights. Like Person Centered Planning, strategies in this area need to be implemented in Year One. The Plan does not appear to contemplate coordination with the Department of Health Services, the Department of Education, or any other Arizona agency that serves members. We believe that there must be an effort to include other agencies that have involvement with members or the HCBS system in transition plan implementation, especially as it relates to training, education and communication. The state should also have a <i>continuing</i> plan to educate members, participants, family members, providers, and community members so that they understand the transition process, what is changing, and the opportunities for involvement. Although education is important in the early stages, the state should also inform members near the end of the transition process so that they understand the new policies developed about their rights and enforcement mechanisms, such as how they may file a complaint, so that the HCBS programs continue to promote community integration.</p> <p>In addition, we wish to emphasize the important role that self-advocacy groups can play in the state’s communication plan. We encourage strong self-advocacy engagement in all education and outreach activities.</p>	<p>AHCCCS provided additional detail in the “Overall Transition Plan” section related to training and updating and soliciting input from the general community. Reference “Overall Transition Plan” section of the document.</p> <p>AHCCCS will establish site specific workgroups that will develop training and ongoing training requirements for MCOs, Case Managers, and providers.</p>
Email 144	Non-Provider Organization	<p>The plan posted for public comment has significant shortcomings and shows that Arizona is substantially behind other states in implementing the requirements of the</p>	<p>The Federal HCBS Rule requirement is applicable to 1915 (c), (i), and (k) waivers. http://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/cib-01-10-</p>

	(William E. Morris Institute for Justice and Arizona Center for Disability Law)	<p>regulation. As examples, the plan does not even contemplate beginning a transition until October 2016. Year One of the proposed transition appears to contemplate only assessment, training and education work that could and should begin immediately. Year Two of the Plan appears to focus only on “paper” compliance by altering policies and contracts, but these proposed steps are known to be necessary and could be taken without the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (“CMS”) approval. Further, any attention to monitoring and site-specific compliance does not appear to begin until Year Three (October 2018), with site-specific corrective action plans not contemplated until Year Five (October 2021). This timeframe is not acceptable. Because the plan to identify and develop fixes occurs so very late in the process, we are unlikely to see full compliance, even by 2021.</p>	<p>14.pdf</p> <p>http://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid-chip-program-information/by-topics/long-term-services-and-supports/home-and-community-based-services/downloads/final-q-and-a.pdf</p> <p>Arizona operates solely under an 1115 waiver and received direction from CMS related to the Rule Requirement in May 2015. Clarification is now provided in the “Introduction” Section of the document.</p> <p>AHCCCS has modified the “Overall Transition Plan” section of the document to include a Preparation Phase period beginning in October 2015 and to include an accelerated time line for Person Centered Planning.</p> <p>Reference “Overall Transition Plan” and “Person Centered Planning” sections of the document.</p>
Email 110	Non-Provider Organization (ARC of Arizona)	<p>We understand that AHCCCS will utilize provider self-assessments. There should be a reliable validation process to substantiate the provider information as well as incentives to ensure integrity in the self-assessment process. Members and family members must be a part of an assessment process in order to accurately determine the state of Arizona’s HCBS services. Integration is about individual experiences. Member self-assessments should be used, at a minimum, to the same extent as provider self-assessments. We encourage AHCCCS to have a more robust process for member involvement, including individual and group interviews and focus groups. AHCCCS should also have a plan for performing on-site evaluations across all settings. On-site evaluation teams should include an objective member representative or a member advocacy organization representative. Finally, we encourage AHCCCS to engage an independent third party to oversee and validate the assessment process. The Arc of Arizona, as an independent advocacy organization, should be heavily involved in all tool design, evaluation and assessment processes.</p>	<p>Please refer to the “Overall Transition Plan” section in the document that outlines assessment, ongoing monitoring of providers and MCO contract compliance. AHCCCS will establish site specific workgroups that will address monitoring tools, standards and ongoing monitoring processes for each setting type.</p>
Email 110	Non-Provider Organization (ARC of Arizona)	<p>The Plan does not adequately address the issue of monitoring and accountability. Successful implementation of the HCBS rules will require that a meaningful monitoring system be in place. The Plan appears to only contemplate annual monitoring, which will likely be insufficient to affect change within a reasonable timeframe. We ask that all sources of standards for providers must be evaluated to enforce compliance. Providers should be required to demonstrate their compliance, including direct care staff training on the rules, as a condition of being granted or maintaining qualified vendor status. Members, family members and advocacy organizations should have a role in designing the monitoring tools. In addition, members must be able to submit complaints and appeals regarding settings and services and have those complaints adequately</p>	<p>Please refer to the “Overall Transition Plan” section in the document that outlines assessment, ongoing monitoring of providers and MCO contract compliance. AHCCCS will establish site specific workgroups that will address monitoring tools, standards and ongoing monitoring processes for each setting type.</p>

		investigated in a timely fashion. We urge AHCCCS to engage an independent expert to develop monitoring tools and to solicit input from stakeholders in that development. We also believe that robust monitoring and oversight activities must be performed with more frequency, by independent entities, and even beyond the transition period. Finally, we note that the Plan sets no clear timeline for providers to come into compliance, and mentions nothing about protections for members or developing new settings when relocation is necessary.	
Email 110	Non-Provider Organization (ARC of Arizona)	As noted, the Plan identifies the compliance level of residential setting classifications, but does not determine the compliance level of specific facilities. The results of any facility-specific assessments and transition plan should be transparent so that members and family members can have meaningful input and make meaningful choices. In addition, stakeholders should have an opportunity to contest findings of compliance/non-compliance, and provide input on corrective action plans. Participants and their families/friends as well as advocates have crucial information about whether a setting should be considered community. As the transition process evolves, there will need to be changes to rules, policies, procedures and processes. We urge the state to be transparent about the changes and to invite input and involvement from stakeholders. We believe that a stakeholder advisory committee, with strong representation from self-advocates, family members and friends, should be created to provide input on and monitor the implementation of all transition activities as AHCCCS moves forward. It is critical that all stakeholder groups and opportunities for input be balanced to ensure a reflection of the experience of members, as opposed to only providers who have a different interest and perspective. Any changes made to the transition plan should also be subject to this stakeholder input and public comment.	<p>AHCCCS provided additional language and clarification regarding provider monitoring.</p> <p>Reference “Overall Transition Plan” section in the document that outlines assessment and ongoing monitoring of providers.</p> <p>AHCCCS will establish site specific workgroups that will address monitoring tools, standards and ongoing monitoring processes for each setting type.</p> <p>AHCCCS provided additional detail in the “Overall Transition Plan” section related to training and updating and soliciting input from the general community. Reference “Overall Transition Plan” section of the document.</p>
Email 112	Non-Provider Organization (Raising Special Kids)	We want to acknowledge the significant efforts being made by AHCCCS to provide numerous opportunities for stakeholder engagement on HCBS rules and requirements. While stakeholder engagement is important at the beginning of the process, we feel it would strengthen the plan to specify stakeholder engagement activities in each year and throughout the transition plan. Stakeholder engagement will be needed to re-assess and recalibrate transition activities as the plan moves toward implementation. The value of ongoing stakeholder engagement is that the tone and content may begin to shift from a recitation of weaknesses and problems toward systems improvement and quality outcomes. This type of dynamic stakeholder engagement moves systems beyond compliance toward results-driven accountability, transparency, and more appropriate services for its members.	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p> <p>Reference the “Overall Transition Plan” and the “Public Comment “sections of the document. Additional information provided regarding stakeholder engagement.</p>

General: Residential

Reference	Stakeholder	Question(s)/Comment(s)	AHCCCS Response
Topic: Assessment			
Email 33	Family Member	On January 16, 2014 the centers for Medicare and Medicare Services (CMS) released a new ruling on the residential facilities for people with autism and other disabilities. I want to strongly oppose the implementation of this program. It appears that the rural group homes and or Farmstead settings will be impacted the most. Our son [NAME] is 44 years old and mentally is about three years old. The thought of him having to get on a bus and go to work is totally out of the question. He requires one on one care every day. The other seven ranchers at his facility are in the same position. [FARMSTEAD COMMUNITY] is a facility for adults impacted severely with autism. It is one of, if not the best program in the country. The funding for these programs had already eroded and the state wants the homes to provide more and more without an increase in funding. The other thing that bothers me is that the government will be the one deciding what program our son will be placed in. They will also have volunteer monitors. There is nothing stated about how qualified these people will be and they certainly will not have the compassion that the parents and guardians do. People who have autism should have any and all choices they need. Having CMS target rural programs is just not viable for some of the autistic community.	Based on public comment regarding Farmstead community, AHCCCS will be conducting Heightened Scrutiny of these settings. Based on various public comments, a Section was added to the final Assessment and Transition Plan. Reference section “Settings Requiring Special Considerations” of the document.
Email34	Family Member	It appears that the agricultural or homestead programs will be impacted the most. Living in the ranch environment, within a rural community, our son receives one to one staffing all day every day. He is allowed to assist with the gardening, feed the chickens, curry the horses, take hikes and swim in warm weather. Now bear in mind he will take a bite from the vegetable he has just picked. This would not bode well in a super market setting or a restaurant. He is allowed to be himself and not suffer the stress that would accompany this in a city or town setting. We consider it our miracle he has a home on [FARMSTEAD COMMUNITY] in [CITY], AZ. He enjoys a great quality of life and is treated with dignity and respect. I must say with sadness that my son will never be independent. That said, as his mother, I must do all that I can to see that he receives the best care that he deserves. I feel that there should be programs for those that are independent. This can be accomplished as it should. Just please, don't deny those that are on the lower end of the spectrum what they deserve. Needless to say, I don't have a PHD in anything other than my son. <i>[Excerpt of letter submission]</i>	Based on public comment regarding Farmstead community, AHCCCS will be conducting Heightened Scrutiny of these settings. Based on various public comments, a Section was added to the final Assessment and Transition Plan. Reference section “Settings Requiring Special Considerations” of the document.

Assisted Living Facilities

Reference	Stakeholder	Question(s)/Comment(s)	AHCCCS Response
Topic: Assessment			
Forum 32	Provider Organization (Arizona Health Care Association)	How is AHCCCS addressing the concept of settings that have the effect of isolating individuals receiving HCBS from the broader community – esp. related to Assisted Living Directed Care? Rule requires secure perimeters, allows for delayed egress – esp. for wandering dementia care, memory care. CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) denied these facilities in California. Need to include R9-10-815 (Arizona	Based on public comment regarding Memory Care units/directed care, AHCCCS will be conducting Heightened Scrutiny of these settings. Based on various public comments, a Section was added to the final Assessment and Transition Plan. Reference section “Settings Requiring Special Considerations” of the document.

		Administrative Code) – Directed Care Services and 36-401 (Arizona Revised Statutes) – definition of direct care services 36-104.A.14 (Arizona Revised Statutes).	
Email 97	Provider Organization (Arizona Health Care Association)	<p>My comments center on the state plan <u>review of settings</u>, which <u>includes assisted living facilities</u>, but <u>does not specifically address a segment of assisted living</u>; “directed care” which is defined in statute at ARS §36.401.A.14, and addressed in rule at R9-10-815. Directed Care services according to ARS §36.401.A.14 “<i>means programs and services, including supervisory and personal care services, that are provided to persons who are incapable of recognizing danger, summoning assistance, expressing need or making basic care decisions.</i>” The residents in directed care/memory care facilities are almost always in the mid to late stages of Alzheimer’s disease or other types of dementia and the overall goals of their care at this level is not to integrate them back into the community but to provide them a safe environment where they can live at their highest potential. These residents will not, and cannot be rehabilitated. They have progressive diseases that will eventually end their lives. I believe it is important for AHCCCS to address directed care and specifically directed care that is provided to residents with dementia (often referred to as “memory care”) because by rule, these facilities must have secured perimeters and most have delayed egress. These elements have been an issue that CMS has viewed as potentially having the effect of isolating individuals receiving Medicaid HCBS from the broader community of individuals not receiving Medicaid HCBS. I believe the following points describe the care provided in these assisted living communities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arizona facilities have been successfully managing this level of care in these secure settings for many years. 2. These settings provide a cost-effective quality alternative to otherwise more restrictive skilled nursing settings. 3. In most cases community activities, services and resources are brought to the assisted living community to enhance the individualized care provided. 4. In most cases residents live and interact within a secure environment because it provides needed structure and safety to enhance their independence. 5. These memory care facilities have outside areas for walking, socializing, often gardening, having picnics or other outdoor activities. 6. These memory care facilities seek to preserve life skills by providing activities that help residents feel a sense of purpose such as helping distribute mail, sort clothes, fold laundry, water plants, and care for pets. 7. Residents achieve their highest well-being and individualized care in assisted living memory care settings through programs that are smaller and have predictable and structured schedules. 8. Some residents are able to attend outside events with family such as family outings, restaurant meals or church services, but this is the exception rather than the norm as most residents with this level of dementia become overwhelmed and agitated in the community at large. 9. Resident service plans are individualized and have goals to help each resident 	<p>Based on public comment regarding Memory Care units/directed care, AHCCCS will be conducting Heightened Scrutiny of these settings.</p> <p>Based on various public comments, a Section was added to the final Assessment and Transition Plan. Reference section “Settings Requiring Special Considerations” of the document.</p>

		function at his/her highest level of well-being.	
Email 116	Provider	As an owner/operator of a memory care facility, the people who choose to live here are doing so, first and foremost for safety. They have been unsafe in another setting but still want to reside in the least restrictive setting, while also having person centered care and the freedom to live their day to day routines. To be able for them to achieve this, the perimeter of the 6.22 acres is secured. Memory Care programs allow freedom of movement and quality of life that would not have been achieved in a skilled nursing dementia unit. Memory care settings will continue to be an vital option for all private pay individuals and by removing this setting from the HCBS category, the effect will be segregating ALTCS recipients and limiting freedom of choice. All current ALTCS individuals that reside in Memory Care settings will need to be moved from their current home of choice to a skilled nursing institution resulting in an increase in cost to the state and a loss of that person’s freedom to choose and loss of person centered care. It is encouraging to see that the care and means do exist in Memory care settings to serve the diminished effects of memory disease and empower the individual to maintain a dignified quality of life. Please do not take this innovative setting away from Medicaid recipients.	Based on public comment regarding Memory Care units/directed care, AHCCCS will be conducting Heightened Scrutiny of these settings. Based on various public comments, a Section was added to the final Assessment and Transition Plan. Reference section “Settings Requiring Special Considerations” of the document.

Group Homes

Reference	Stakeholder	Question(s)/Comment(s)	AHCCCS Response
Topic: Assessment			
Email 144	Non-Provider Organization (William E. Morris Institute for Justice and Arizona Center for Disability Law)	At 59: Posting member rights is a start, but there also should be an active program to educate members about their rights. There are no specifics that the state will require multiple methods of informing individuals about their rights.	Language of Remediation Strategy #4 - changed to “Incorporate a Service Requirement and Limitation in the Services Specification that requires Group Homes to follow guidelines for language competency and provide rights in a location that anyone can access at anytime.” Current AHCCCS policy addresses education of members regarding member rights. Reference Group Homes –Assessment Rule #4 – Evidence references.
Email 80	Provider Organization (Arizona Association of Providers for People with Disabilities)	<i>Rule 6; Remediation Strategy #6 (page 63)</i> -AAPPD would like to point out that in the case of the Group Home service, a vendor and the vendor’s staff is involved in the process. What would the standard be for measuring and gauging that satisfaction? Would incorporating member and family input during an annual staff review meet this requirement? AAPPD suggests that it might be prudent for DES/DDD to include this stipulation in the General Contract Scope of Work rather than include it in the individual service specifications. It generally already exists in 5.8.2.3 as indicated in the Evidence section. A small adjustment could then be made to the general contract, which would require providers to engage customer satisfaction on a regular basis. Monitoring takes place every 90 days, which would provide an opportunity for discourse. In addition, a standard survey could be implemented by providers so that the responses could be measured.	Acknowledged. Compliance Level correction made to Compliant; No Remediation Strategy.

Topic: Transition Plan

Forum 48A	Family Member	<p>I am a court appointed Guardian for my sister living at the Arizona Training Program at Coolidge (ATPC). I have submitted comments already to AHCCCS. AHCCCS should allow members in the group homes on the ATPC campus to remain in their home until they pass away. I don't want to have the members moved into the community.</p> <p><i>[Paraphrase of verbal comment]</i></p>	Reference section "Settings Requiring Special Considerations" of the document.
Email 2	Family Member	<p>I am the court appointed guardian and representative payee for my sister, [NAME], who for the past 43 years has resided at the Arizona Training Program, Coolidge, Arizona. In accordance to the new Federal HCBS regulation, my sister's home of 43 years will be taken away from her and others in the ATPC group home residents. Moving [NAME], at this time, to another facility or group home, after 43 years at this location, would be detrimental to her safety, health and wellbeing. [NAME], knows and feels comfortable with the staff who take care of her on a daily bases, and feels secure in the only home she knows. I fear, moving her would severely threaten her health and wellbeing, as well as her life. As, [NAME], legal guardian and sister, I strongly request a Federal HCBS Wavier be granted to the ATPC Group home residents, to live their remaining life out in dignity, contentment and in the way they have been accustom to for most of their lives. I, as [NAME], guardian, request a HCBS Federal Wavier from being placed in a community group home. <i>[Excerpt of email submission]</i></p>	Reference section "Settings Requiring Special Considerations" of the document.
Email 5	Family Member	<p>Please allow me to turn the focus onto my sister, [NAME], whom we call [NAME], She moved into an ICF on the ATPC Campus on Valentine's Day in 1963, when she was 13 and I was eight. I recall my now deceased parents saying that this was the hardest decision they had ever had to make. The tipping point to making this decision, was an assurance that she would be cared for in the event something should happen to them. They prayed that she would die before them, but because of the excellent quality of care she has received through the years, she will be turning 66 in October, after being told she would never see her 16th birthday, and she continues to outlive our parents. In the history of her stay at ATPC, there have been other attempts to close the Campus, all of which have failed to this date. It saddens and angers me to think we're fighting our Government for these special individuals, yet again. Let me return to introducing you to [NAME], if I may. She is legally blind, cannot speak, cannot read or write; yet, she joyfully goes to work daily, carrying her beloved lunch bag. She is so disappointed if her schedule changes and she cannot go to work. She can navigate the Campus with little assistance because she knows its layout, has neighbors who know her and where she belongs and are available to assist if it becomes necessary. If [NAME], Government requires her to move to a community based facility, she starts from Ground Zero. Is she up to it? If you had a fragile loved one who is similarly limited, tell me, would you ask him or her to make the changes you've been required to make when it is absolutely unnecessary, because there are other options available. With a stroke of a pen; with the courage to simply say, "NO!" – all this foolishness can stop. I'm asking you as a concerned sister and one who sees value in such special folks, please, take some time to think this process through. Wherever these folks move, money is going to be required to recreate their supports. That will be costly. These supports are currently in place at</p>	Reference section "Settings Requiring Special Considerations" of the document.

		ATPC. Please exercise compassion and common sense and hear the heart of the concerned Rains family. I fear that some of these folks will not survive the disruption that is being expected of them by our Government. <i>[Excerpt of email submission]</i>	
Email 1	Community Member	I am familiar with the good work that the Arizona Training Program (earlier known as the Children's Colony) does. When I first came to Arizona in 1960, a co-worker had his son there and told me of the excellent care given. More recently, I am acquainted with another person who has her younger sister there- again, highly satisfied with the care and compassion shown. To uproot these residents to a new setting, with different, perhaps not caring staff would be detrimental, possibly inhumane. I urge that action be taken to preserve the status quo of the Arizona Training Program, aka the Randolph House. <i>[Excerpt from email submission]</i>	Reference section "Settings Requiring Special Considerations" of the document.
Email 57	Community Member	Myself and many of the people in my congregation in east Phoenix have provided service at the ATP located in the town of Randolph. We would like to request a waiver so they can remain open and serving the patients that have lived there for many years.	Reference section "Settings Requiring Special Considerations" of the document.
Forum 66	Family Member	Interesting that Coolidge is being exempted in this state and it is truly a violation of Olmstead.	Reference section "Settings Requiring Special Considerations" of the document.
Email 107	Family Member	It turns out it was 2004 when Olmstead talked about community placement. AHCCCS and DDD created those group homes on Coolidge since parents did not want their adult child out in the community. Now CMS says they are not group homes but an institution with all the benefits of therapies and dental coverage. AHCCCS wants another exception.	Reference section "Settings Requiring Special Considerations" of the document.
Email 110	Non-Provider Organization (ARC of Arizona)	The Plan notes that it does not address the group homes co-located at ATPC (pages 74-76), that there would be meetings with guardians and family members of residents of those group homes. As AHCCCS develops its transition plan for these homes, we urge it to allow for input and participation from other stakeholders. The Plan should include appropriate protections for persons who may have to be relocated.	Reference section "Settings Requiring Special Considerations" of the document.
Email 80	Provider Organization (Arizona Association of Providers for People with Disabilities)	What is envisioned in the requirement to "post" the rights and resources? Because the Group Home setting is fundamentally different and is meant to be a family home setting, the "posting" of flyers, posters, etc. would not fit; such flyers would not be posted in a regular family home. In addition, this does not take into account individuals who cannot read and/or understand the material. This should be changed to "provide" the rights and resources to the member and also to their guardian, as appropriate. The rights and resources could be provided at each ISP evaluation in addition to giving them to the member when they move into the home.	Language of Remediation Strategy #4 - changed to "Incorporate a Service Requirement and Limitation in the Services Specification that requires Group Homes to follow guidelines for language competency and provide rights in a location that anyone can access at anytime."
Email 109	Provider	Pg. 59; Remediation Strategy 4: The aim of group homes is to provide individuals with the most typical living environment manageable. Posting rights information on the wall of a home is not typical. Perhaps it would be better to provide this information in their welcome packet or in a right's book distributed to them at the time of move-in.	Language of Remediation Strategy #4 - changed to "Incorporate a Service Requirement and Limitation in the Services Specification that requires Group Homes to follow guidelines for language competency and provide rights in a location that anyone can access at anytime."
Email 109	Provider	<i>Pg. 63-64; Remediation Strategy 6:</i> What is customer satisfaction beyond the provided evidence? Does this include participation in employee reviews? If so, who develops that survey or review process and how does it impact a direct care workers ability to be employed in this field?	Acknowledged. Compliance Level correction made to Compliant; No Remediation Strategy.

Adult and Child Developmental Homes

Reference	Stakeholder	Question(s)/Comment(s)	AHCCCS Response
Topic: Transition Plan			
Email 109	Provider	<i>Pg. 80; Remediation Strategy 1:</i> First, it says group home and not “ADH/CDH.” If the responsibility of the referral rests on the “ADH/CDH” where does the referral for employment skills get documented and how does it get documented? When do these meetings with individual(s) and their team take place, at the 90 day review or annual ISP? Special meetings, historically, are very difficult to schedule (even at the request of the individual) in a timely manner or if at all. Just because someone displays a certain set of employable skills doesn’t mean they would be interested in that type of work (i.e. they take out the trash, mop the floor, etc. doesn’t necessarily mean they want to be a janitor). Shouldn’t we ask the individual if they want a job and what they would like to do and then work towards helping them to acquire the skills essential to their desired job?	Acknowledged. Language correction made. AHCCCS will establish site specific workgroups to address policy and process development for Remediation Strategies.
Email 80	Provider Organization (Arizona Association of Providers for People with Disabilities)	<i>Rule 4; Remediation Strategy #3 (page 92)-</i> What is envisioned in the requirement to “post” the rights and resources? Because the ADH/CDH setting is fundamentally different and is meant to be a family home setting, the “posting” of flyers, posters, etc. would not fit; such flyers would not be posted in a regular family home. In addition, this does not take into account individuals who cannot read and/or understand the material. This should be changed to “provide” the rights and resources to the member and also to their guardian, as appropriate. The rights and resources could be provided at each ISP evaluation in addition to giving them to the member when they move into the home.	Language of Remediation Strategy #3 - changed to “Incorporate a Service Requirement and Limitation in the Services Specification that requires Adult/Child Developmental Home to follow guidelines for language competency and provide rights in a location that anyone can access at anytime.
Email 109	Provider	<i>Pg. 92; Remediation Strategy 3:</i> The aim of an ADH/CDH is to provide individuals with the most typical living environment manageable and to teach individuals how to live in a family structure. Posting rights information on the wall of a home is not typical. Perhaps it would be better to provide this information in their welcome packet or in a right’s book distributed to them at the time of move-in.	Language of Remediation Strategy #4 - changed to “Incorporate a Service Requirement and Limitation in the Services Specification that requires Adult/Child Developmental Home to follow guidelines for language competency and provide rights in a location that anyone can access at anytime.
Email 80	Provider Organization (Arizona Association of Providers for People with Disabilities)	<i>Rule 5; Remediation Strategy #4 (page 95) -</i> The remediation strategy states that an individual should have full access to the “home environment” at all times. Because a CDH/ADH is a home, AAPPD would like clarification on what the “home environment” means. Does home environment refer to typical shared living spaces? Does home environment mean that the member should have full access to the entire home, including the bedrooms of other individuals in the home at any time? AAPPD recommends that this language be rewritten to reflect the language used in bullet point three of the Considerations section on pg. 95, which reflects practices already in place (kitchen, dining area, laundry, and seating in shared areas). In addition, AAPPD would like to request that health and safety considerations be made for areas of the home that contain hazards, and that the language includes considerations for the ISP/person centered plan. For example, in some homes the laundry room is locked because cleaning supplies and other hazardous substances are contained in that area. The individual initiative and autonomy needs to be balanced with their health and safety needs and must be dictated by the ISP/person centered plan.	Acknowledged. Remediation Strategy language updated to define meaning of home environment. Reference “Assessment” section of the document. Health and Safety considerations and limitations on HCBS Rules requirements will be addressed through a individual’s person centered planning process

Email 109	Provider	<i>Pg. 95; Remediation Strategy 4:</i> Please use the language outlined in the considerations “i.e. kitchen, dining area, laundry and seating in shared areas” so as not to create semantics issues with individuals and parents/guardians.	Acknowledged. Remediation Strategy language updated to define meaning of home environment. Reference “Assessment” section of the document.
Email 80	Provider Organization (Arizona Association of Providers for People with Disabilities)	<i>Rule 6; Remediation Strategy #5 (page 97) -</i> AAPPD would like to point out that in the case of the ADH/CDH service, a Developmental Home (homeowner) and a vendor are involved in the process. Can AHCCCS clarify whether it would be the vendor or the homeowner that would be responsible for engaging customer satisfaction? If it were required of each Developmental Home, what would the standard be for measuring and gauging that satisfaction? Would each homeowner be responsible for creating a separate survey? If the vendor was involved and responsible for engaging customer satisfaction, could they provide each of their Developmental Homes with a standard survey to administer? AAPPD would like to suggest that it might be prudent for DES/DDD to include this stipulation in the General Contract Scope of Work rather than include it in the individual service specifications. It generally already exists in 5.8.2.3 as indicated in the Evidence Section. A small adjustment could then be made to the general contract, which would require providers to engage in customer satisfaction on a regular basis. Monitoring takes place every 90 days, which would provide an opportunity for discourse. In addition, a standard survey could be implemented so that the responses could be measured.	Acknowledged. Compliance Level correction made to Compliant; No Remediation Strategy.
Email 109	Provider	<i>Pg. 97; Remediation Strategy 5:</i> What is customer satisfaction beyond the provided evidence? Does this include participation in ADH/CDH reviews? If so, who develops that survey or review process and how does it impact the provider’s ability to be employed in this field?If an ADH/CDH is directly contracted through DDD and doesn’t work through a qualified vendor how is that going to be monitored? How do we create standards of quality in the feedback?	Acknowledged. Compliance Level correction made to Compliant; No Remediation Strategy.
Email 80	Provider Organization (Arizona Association of Providers for People with Disabilities)	<i>Rule 7b and 7c; Remediation Strategies #9 - 10 (page 102) -</i> Because ADH and CDH services are different than other residential settings and are set in family homes that teach an individual to live in a family environment, the use of the word “facility” is not appropriate. AAPPD suggests changing this language to “family homes”. Creating a standard for family behavior is problematic, as each family unit functions differently. As mentioned above for remediation strategy #8, families should be allowed to set their own rules and policies that coincide with the health and safety as well as the ISP/person centered plan for the individuals. How can a family teach the individual living with them about eating family dinners if they are allowed to eat at the time of their choosing? How can a family teach a 16-year-old about curfew if they are allowed to “come and go...at any time”? In addition, AAPPD would like clarification on whether or not items like “food access” would be lumped in with a residency agreement or lease. Overall, it is felt that these types of items should not be grouped together.	<p data-bbox="1615 1013 2599 1224">Acknowledged. The word “facility” changed to “home” in the Remediation Strategy #9 consistent with the language in this section.</p> <p data-bbox="1615 1232 2599 1305">AHCCCS will establish site specific workgroups to address policy and process development for Remediation Strategies.</p> <p data-bbox="1615 1330 2599 1403">Health and Safety considerations and limitations on HCBS Rules requirements will be addressed through an individual’s person centered planning process.</p>

General: Non-Residential

Reference	Stakeholder	Question(s)/Comment(s)	AHCCCS Response
Topic: Assessment			
Email 103	Provider	Being a representative of a program fitting the description of a farmstead and thusly subject to heightened scrutiny, I question the non-inclusion of agriculturally-based activities as substantive to meet the criteria of employment or employment related skills. Since agricultural settings form the base of any non-nomadic society, a program designed in that likeness should most assuredly satisfy the criteria for employment skills training for individuals that we serve.	Based on public comment regarding Farmstead community, AHCCCS will be conducting Heightened Scrutiny of these settings. Based on various public comments, a Section was added to the final Assessment and Transition Plan. Reference section “Settings Requiring Special Considerations” of the document.

Day Treatment and Training Programs

Reference	Stakeholder	Question(s)/Comment(s)	AHCCCS Response
Topic: Transition Plan			
Email 80	Provider Organization (Arizona Association of Providers for People with Disabilities)	<i>Rule 1a; Remediation Strategy #4 (page 137)</i> - AAPPD realizes that AHCCCS is comparing each rule with each service; however, in this case, this rule does not fit into a DTA setting. Why are the concepts of employment being assessed within a DTA? The considerations speak to job placement and training, not to a DTA. That being said, AAPPD appreciates the “partial compliance” recommendation and supports including opportunities to learn about volunteer work in the community to the service specifications. AHCCCS should also recognize that there is a significant population of people with developmental disabilities that are in retirement status. As long as there is not a requirement to volunteer or prepare for volunteer work, these individuals should then be able to choose to participate or not participate.	Acknowledged. AHCCCS has clarified the Remediation Strategy to read as follows: “Expand the scope of the Service Goals and Service Specifications to include opportunities to learn about volunteer work in the community and referrals (resources and services) to prepare for, obtain and support volunteer work.”
Email 80	Provider Organization (Arizona Association of Providers for People with Disabilities)	<i>Rule 4; Remediation Strategy #7 (page 148)</i> - What is envisioned in the requirement to “post” the rights and resources? Because the member is engaged in various activities throughout the day, there does not seem to be one location to “post” the rights and resources that would ensure the individuals see them and have access to the posting. In addition, this does not take into account individuals who cannot read and/or understand the material. This should be changed to “provide” the rights and resources to the member and also to their guardian, as appropriate. The rights and resources could be provided at each ISP evaluation in addition to giving them to the member the first time.	Language of Remediation Strategy #7 - changed to “Incorporate a Service Requirement and Limitation in the Services Specification that requires Day Treatment and Training Programs to follow guidelines for language competency and provide rights in a location that anyone can access at anytime.

Center-Based Employment Programs

Reference	Stakeholder	Question(s)/Comment(s)	AHCCCS Response
Topic: Transition Plan [Pre-Vocational Facility Based Service]			
Email 119	Provider	In regard to Employment Services, we request that Center-Based Employment not be eliminated. It is a necessary component in the continuum of employment services. There is already a time-limited pre-vocational service, Transition to Employment. We understand that policymakers are concerned about the number of individuals working in segregated settings, but eliminating a choice that may actually be the only realistic opportunity a client has for earning paycheck is not the correct	Reference “AHCCCS’ Response to Public Comment on Center-Based Employment” section of the document.

		solution. The planning process should be assessing the appropriateness of the employment services setting and changing the authorized service if needed. Please fix this process rather than create a hole in the spectrum that will relegate clients to day programs or volunteer work (which many consider work without pay).	
Forum 8	Family Member	I have a 23 year old son with Autism that works in a center-based employment program. The proposed changes are a diversionary tactic to eliminate sub-minimum wage certificates. My son got emotional when he heard about the proposed changes because he wants to be able to continue to work. <i>[Paraphrase of verbal comment]</i>	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Forum 64	Family Member	Do not force people to mainstream into community employment. Many do not want this, cannot be successful, but are very happy where they are. “Sheltered Workshops” are very appropriate without forcing a “community integrated” goal. Thank you for your hard work!	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Forum 66	Family Member	My daughter will never be able to earn minimum wage and work in the community on her own. What will happen is that she will not have any employment and that’s criminal!!!	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Forum 72	Family Member	Very interesting & informative meeting. Thank you. Impacts my daughter who is in an IDLA (Individualized Living Arrangement) and also in Center-Based Employment & will never be able to work outside of a Center-Based Employment situation.	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Forum 103	Family Member	Our son is very happy with Center Based Employment. He has many friends & is very proud of his paycheck. This Center helps provide a safe & secure future for our son.	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Forum 113	Family Member	Our son loves his job at MARC Productions it is center-based. He is involved in community thru sports and other social activities.	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Forum 74	Undisclosed	Individual would not want to be transitioned into an integrated work program and would want to stay in a center-based employment. Individual is successful in CBE (Center-Based Employment) work program and is safe and secure. This would not be so in an integrated program.	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Forum 90	Family Member	There will always be a need for centers where low functioning individuals can go and have a purpose in their daily lives. These individuals have a cap on their abilities and will not be able to ever meet minimum requirements for standard employment. The idea of individuals who are young now & will be affected by this new system after the 5 year implementation but they will not have an option of sheltered workshop. Please make sure the low functional individuals continue to have options such as center-based employment.	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 12	Family Member	The Center-based employment gives her the opportunity to work in a safe environment. In community employment there are concerns about safety and being taken advantage of-	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of

		she does not recognize danger. Losing CBE or paid work activities would be a negative impact for my niece. Individuals such as my niece with disabilities are the last to be hired and first to be fired as the economy changes. Employers will not give my nice the same opportunities because of her productivity rate is between 30%-60%. CBE gives my niece a deep sense of achievement and self- worth a feeling of accomplishment and an increased feelings of normalcy and being part of the community. So please continue with these programs as it will affect many if the opportunities are taken away. <i>[Excerpt of email submission]</i>	AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 13	Member	I would really like it if we could stay open because then none of us special needs kids would have jobs or anything so I would really really really love it if you could keep it is this is coming from [NAME], at Marc East it would be Amazing if the works shop stayed opened we could have a job	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 14	Family Member	[NAME], looks forward to going to the Marc East center everyday to see his friends, to have a reason to get up, get dressed, have something meaningful for him to do at work and the socialization he gets makes his life worth living. He loves being able to work at his tasks and see them completed. He loves to work at the center and it carries over to his personal life at home. They also have activities that they would not ever have in any other way. A reason to go to a dance, a Halloween or Christmas party, Valentine Dance. Who in the normal world would invite my son [NAME], or any of those that work with him to their parties and activities. Marc East invites them and they all love it !! The government wastes money in many areas, but there are no other options for my son and the thousands of others just like him. Arizona needs to stand out in front and continue to help those that have NO OTHER CHOICE!! <i>[Excerpt of email submission]</i>	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Forum 75	Family Member	What will be the services available for center-based employment services for individuals who are so disabled that they are not employable? We can't just trash these people?	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Forum 84	Family Member	Will he lose his job? It because his arm shake a lot and where would be able to work and slow and at this own speed?	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Forum 84A	Member	I want to keep my job at Beacon cause it's my first job.	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 16	Family Member	Its my understanding that you are considering eliminating funding for day programs for the handicapped. What a travesty that would be!! My daughter, [NAME], , has been at the MARC Center, 924 N. Country Club Drive, Mesa for 25 years. She functions on a 7 year old level, academically, and is not capable of being in the general community for employment. Her judgement is limited and we have encountered 2 serious incidents of "stranger danger". She needs to be in a sheltered setting or a low risk environment, as do so many of the clients at MARC. She makes	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.

		limited income but it gives her a sense of pride that she is doing something meaningful. So, I speak not just for [NAME], but all the clients who depend on day programs to be productive and part of society. They are different. They need special help. Employers will not hire the handicapped over someone who is "normal". They will get shoved aside for sure. Please do not cut this funding. They are actually doing important work at the sheltered workshops. Let them continue to feel good about themselves.	
Email 17	Member	I am a 72 year old retired nurse. I live in an independent living complex and feel a strong need to help others who are mentally or physically hurting. I have been offered two full time jobs as a peer support specialist.. My psychiatrist that this is too heavy a load for my age. Nevertheless I want to experience a sense of achievement and self-worth. 2 A feeling of mastery and accomplishment. 3 A sense of inclusion and connectedness.. 4 Increasing feelings of normalcy and being part of the community. I can only do this when I am transported to my classes to learn the necessary skills I need to help others. <i>[Excerpt of email submission]</i>	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 18	Family Member	I am writing to tell you how angry I am about even the possibility of the Marc Center's work program being eliminated! This is a place where my daughter can have self worth and get paid a little for doing such marvelous things that we never thought she could do. She doesn't need a restrictive day program she would be so unhappy! Employment elsewhere for her is not possible. She came home traumatized at just the thought of this happening, if it did I don't know how I would console her. She doesn't miss work and is very upset if she is sick and has to stay home. In the community these individuals are the last to be hired. It doesn't matter about how much she makes it is that she is working and brings home a paycheck. She feels a deep sense of accomplishment, and mastery at being able to work at Marc Center East. She is so excited when she sees her items being sold at Target, Walmart, of Costco. It gives me a sense of pride about reducing reliance on and the amount of federal entitlements. She feels normal and a part of a community where she is like everyone else. I hope you will not think of money in your decision, but the kids, young adults and adults that love it there and would be totally devastated if it would close!	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 19	Member	I am a participant in a paid work activities employment program. I have a SMI diagnosis that left me believing I couldn't work in competitive community job. The reasons being needed medication injections every two weeks and various other appointments and groups etc. During that time I was very grateful to be a participant of center-based employment. It allow me to feel useful, I was able to learn new skills and enhance others.. Also I felt safe and was working with peers with various disabilities. Even though I am currently trying to find competitive community employment I would be devastated if that job did not work out and I could not return to a program like this.. So I hope that it will be heard losing this program would hurt the most vulnerable population in our communities.	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 20	Community Member	I am writing on behalf of a co-worker and her son. The Marc Center in Mesa has been a place of work for [NAME], . We've seen him grow up and has grown into a nice young	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of

		<p>man. I would not want the Marc Center close. I don't know if it would be possible for [NAME], to secure a job in the community. He has support at the Marc Center and they provide a safe environment. In another setting there would be concern for his safety and being taken advantage of. With an employer he may not receive competitive pay due to productivity. Disabled persons are usually the last to be hired and the first to be fired as the economy changes.</p> <p>My co-worker is a teacher and as we all know teachers do not get paid what they are worth. With [NAME], working he is able to provide for himself. That has to be a big help to the household. Jarod's job is not only about money, it gives him a sense of achievement and self worth. I can see confidence in him as he helps his dad. I hope that my email helps in the decision to keep these important programs open for those who can not otherwise act on their own behalf.</p>	AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 21	Family Member	<p>I was recently advised there is a proposal circulating at AHCCCS to close the protected workshops currently available for the disabled and replace them with required community placement or participation in a day program. As a parent, I find this both upsetting and pointless. My son, [NAME], [NAME], will be 39 years old in December of this year and has been disabled since he contracted encephalitis at the age of 14 months. Since leaving school, he has participated in these workshops, or enclaves, and considers them "his job." And having a job is more important to him than most people can comprehend. He does not fall into the category of the disabled that can function successfully in a predominantly unsupervised community-based employment position and the last thing he needs is permission to play all day long in a day program. These workshops have provided him with socialization opportunities but, more importantly, they have provided him with a sense of worth. I realize there are segments of the population that seem to be easy targets for "cost-cutting" initiatives and that the disabled are rapidly falling into this category after the long decades of slow advancements made on their behalf. This is NOT the time to deny my son and his peers of something that makes them feel good about themselves; that makes them feel as if they belong; that they are just as much a valued segment of society as you or me. I cannot urge you strongly enough to find another method for cutting costs that will involve office supplies, not PEOPLE. <i>[Excerpt of email submission]</i></p>	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 22	Family Member	<p>Since 2010, my sister, [NAME], has been participating in the Employment Related Services program at the MARC center in Mesa, AZ. She recently told us that MARC center is planning to phase out this program, which has as its mission "vocational rehabilitation for individuals with disabilities that emphasizes helping people obtain competitive work in the community and provides the necessary support to ensure success in the workplace." Disbanding the program would be tragic for [NAME], and negatively affect her everyday life. Since her participation in this program her quality of life improved greatly. We, her family, had hoped that she could continue in the program for as long as she needed. Her list of positive outcomes are long: gaining computer skills; machine operating skills; communications, organizational and social skills; work-readiness and all-around camaraderie with others like her. She surprised all of us by</p>	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.

		<p>spending 6 months working in the cafeteria at the Banner Health Corporate Center. As [NAME], family, we would deeply regret the negative impact ending this program would have, not only on [NAME], life, but on the lives of the many friends [NAME], has made in her years there.</p>	
Email 23	Undisclosed	<p>It is unacceptable. The thought that budget cuts mean taking away from a community that needs support the most. There are so many other ways to save money. To take it out on them is inhumane. Everyday we put out our money to support people who thrive on welfare because it pays more than a typical job and requires very little participation with society. Yet we contribute to their laziness and manipulation of state resources to ignore their responsibility as a United States citizen. Yet that resumes, and the disabled community, the community who is the most appreciative, who doesn't complain about wages or hours, who is happy just to be contributing to being part of a great country continually is the target of budget cutting and the threat of closure. If you have any compassion for your fellow human beings, you will work hard to not take away the only pride these individuals have and the only way they feel they contribute to our society. Make it so when YOU go to bed at night you can sleep peacefully and not have the weight of millions of individuals and their lives on your shoulders. Nothing great every comes easy.</p>	<p>Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>
Email 24	Family Member	<p>My brother lost his job because he was baited by these cruel coworkers. Unemployed and without purpose, he fell back into his anger and depression. We were as supportive as possible, but without a job, he felt hopelessly rejected from society. Our efforts were useless. My brother then got a job at the MARC center. He was in a supervised environment, able to work and produce. He felt valuable again. He was proud of his work, excited to contribute. It wasn't about the money. It was about being treated like a person. He hadn't felt that in so many years. There are some kinds of support a family can't provide on their own. He has worked at the MARC center for many years, and his relationships and job skills have grown. It's been a long time since he's faced the kind of emotional depths of his unemployed days. However, ACCCHS is now considering cutting his job program. I know exactly what will happen to my brother - and the thousands that are in his position. Rejected again from society, they will fall into despair. They will be unable to contribute economically, they will require additional mental health services, their families will suffer. Some may take their own lives. We were close many times. I fear we may be headed there again. Please consider the value that can be given to these people that are so often shunned from society. It's not about the money that they receive, which is only a few dollars per hour. Their wages could even be cut further. It's about allowing them the basic human decency of working for a living and contributing in some small way. It's all they want, and as [NAME], sister, I beg you to please allow my brother to stay employed. It means the world to him. It means the world to all our family. <i>[Excerpt of email submission]</i></p>	<p>Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>
Email 25	Member	<p>I would be very disappointed with the idea your giving us about closing the workshop, it provides me to make good friends and go bowling with. My name is [NAME], and I'm autistic. I have a hard time doing things like normal people would do. I like coming to</p>	<p>Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS</p>

		Marc Center just to do my jobs. I feel proud. The reason why I don't want you to close down the workshop because it provides me and the other people to help us make money and be more like other people who aren't autistic. We would like to continue coming to Marc Center. <i>[Excerpt of email submission]</i>	has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 26	Family Member	The shutting down of the employment center is a grave and horrible way to cut cost at the expense of my son [NAME], . He has worked there for almost ten years and takes great pride in what he does and the atmosphere is positive and promotes success in the work force. What is a society worth if we do not provide them with these opportunities to feel useful? We have tried employment for [NAME], outside of the Marc center and it does not work. Employers are not interested in hiring our kids and not only that the support to be successful is just not there. Where as at Marc the support is always there and it is in the least restrictive setting. This has helped [NAME], to know that he can and does accomplish work skills. He feels part of the work force and gets the extra help that he needs to succeed at his job. [NAME], has many times shown me items at Target and Walmart that he has worked on which has given him a sense of inclusion and connectiveness. This makes him proud of his job. [NAME], has a deep sense of achievement and self-worth not previously experienced in the work force. The Marc Center keeps them employed in the least restrictive way and with support and a pay check. It does not get much better than that believe me I have tried other avenues with [NAME], and the Marc Center is top notch and the work program needs to stay in tact. My son [NAME], feels normal and part of the community of working adults. <i>[Excerpt of email submission]</i>	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 27	Family Member	Elimination of the MARC Center will be devastating for my daughter! She suffers from seizures and is unable to work in any community-type program. At the MARC Center I know that my daughter is in a safe environment with staff that know her and know what to do if and when my daughter has a seizure. There is no place outside of the MARC Center where my daughter could work and have the safety net of staff to be there in the event of a seizure. In addition, I cannot think of any place that would hire her competitively because her employment would be a liability that no business would want to take on. My daughter earns very little at the MARC Center. However, she enjoys the work and is given jobs that she can successfully complete. She is proud of her paychecks, however small they are, and feels a sense of accomplishment that her work has been rewarded. <i>[Excerpt of email submission]</i>	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 28	Family Member	I would like to express my feelings as to why you shouldn't eliminate this program or any other programs that help our adults with disabilities. These programs are not only a necessary tool for my Daughter but a feeling of accomplishment for her. You see [NAME], cannot work in public places we have tried and she gets very confused and has panic attacks, [NAME], has been diagnosed with mental retardation along with OCD, Bi-Polar as well as her panic attacks. [NAME], cannot be out in a public setting for long periods of times and has to have someone to be there in case of an attack in some instances [NAME], has had seizures due to one of her attacks. [NAME], does not do well in restrictive day programs either as it is to confusing for her and she doesn't like being in	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.

		an environment that doesn't give her options or she doesn't feel like she is being constructive. That is one of the reasons we thought her getting a job would be good for her but a job in the public was devastating to her. I have had [NAME], in Day programs before and she has regressed by that I mean she went backwards as far as her learning skills, speaking and would become agitated easily. <i>[Excerpt of email submission]</i>	
Email 30	Family Member	Our son, age 40, has Down's Syndrome. He is currently participating in a center-based work activity program at MARC East. He takes great pride in the fact that he's able to earn a paycheck and the work that he does. He has learned to work independently and as part of a team accomplishing various tasks. He is not able to perform community based employment that would allow him to participate for the amount of hours per week that he spends at the MARC East center. Any reduction or elimination of center-based employment would deprive him of his sense of achievement and self-worth. We feel your contemplated actions are very detrimental to his well-being as well as the well-being of all those affected by your projected decision. <i>[Excerpt of email submission]</i>	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 31	Undisclosed	It's very important that the day programs and employment programs (CBE) be continued as is. The Marc center provides a much needed service to their client's and families. Everyone needs to have a purpose and meaning in their daily life. This program truly is a lifeline for many people. Thank you for your support!	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 32	Family Member	My son came home from the Marc Center last Friday with a paper he was anxious to show me. It said that AHCCCS is considering eliminating CBE programs such as the Marc Center where my son works. He loves going there and doing all the different jobs. Every day he tells me what they worked on. If it weren't for the Marc Center he would probably have very limited social interaction. Now he looks forward to the monthly social activities and is participating in Bowling with many of his co-workers. Even though he earns less than \$40.00 monthly, he is so proud of his paychecks, and fills out his bank deposit slip so we can put it in the bank. <i>[Excerpt of email submission]</i>	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 33	Undisclosed	Closing the employment program is an awful idea. We need to keep the MARC Center open!	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 34	Family Member	It has come to my attention that the State of Arizona is considering the elimination of onsite employment activities for those with severe mental or developmental challenges. I'm writing because I strongly disagree with this elimination. My child has been in group homes for over 15-years and was born with serious mental and developmental problems. He is currently working at the Marc Center in their sheltered workshop. After he turned 18, the State of Arizona assisted in finding him work at a local grocery store as a 'bagger'. In the beginning this job worked well; however, over time the store management continued to increase the required hours and the stress of the job became more than he could handle. At the same time his mental illness became much worse, leading to him loosing this job. The work provided by the Marc Center fits his abilities and provides him with a level of socialization not available in the for-profit	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.

		world. He calls daily telling me of the work he is doing and how happy he is. It would be disastrous if he was to lose this work. The for-profit business is all about productivity. The job he has needs to meet production goals be is much more focused on the individuals being employed. <i>[Excerpt of email submission]</i>	
Email 35	Family Member	These disabled folks go to work and enjoy the peace of a safe environment with nice dedicated managers who encourage them to do well and they do. These folks don't need to be ganged up in day programs where they will do nothing but digress. My daughter has been working at the Marc Center for three years now and is contributing more to this society than a large amount of people walking or riding bicycles down on Brown Rd. and Main Street! I have never heard her complain of how much she is getting paid. Though it is not much. CBE allows our daughter to work so we are also freed up to work at the same time allowing us to remain sound in this lousy economy. Taking CBE away would not only do harm to our daughter but would leave one of us to have to no longer work. Our daughter requires 24 hour supervision so someone will have to do it. <i>[Excerpt of email submission]</i>	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 36	Family Member	I am concerned about funding being taken away from center-based employment. You want individuals involved in these programs to be involved in the community. These employment centers are the only place where these individuals can be safely employed in their community. Regular jobs are not an option because they need more supervision then these jobs provide. Besides they do not understand the concept of danger or that there could be those that are predators and others that would take advantage of them. There are not enough jobs for this population out there. Where do you propose that they all work? There are still many others looking for jobs as well. My daughter, who is mildly autistic, needs the outlet that her work program provides. She would be stuck at home because there is nowhere else for her to go. This would place a financial burden on our family because I would have to quit my job and stay home with her. Where is the community in that? Some programs may need to be cut in the state, but do not cut programs that are so vital to so many. This will have so many damaging affects on the people of Arizona for a long time.	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 37	Family Member	My name is [NAME], I am a former client and now a staff member at a Vocational Rehab. Facility that has 2 paid training workshops. I believe eliminating these programs would be a terrible idea. It's hard for me to find the words to express how much I know these programs work to significantly help individuals. I have a physical disability that makes my days difficult sometimes and it's harder for me to maintain a schedule due to having a lot of bad days when I don't fell good at all and this center has helped me immensely with their patience and caring. It has taken me a few years to be able to hold a 3 day a week schedule. I know no other type of employer or work, besides self employment, that would allow for someone to make up days missed due to illness as this facility has. I believe people in my position would be able to find employment, but would not be able to hold employment for long at any one place when they never know how you are going to feel day to day!! They would be let go time after time. I KNOW these programs help the majority of individuals that participate in them and with the effort	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.

		put forth by staff members that are there to help them. I've seen it first hand!! And that's not even taking into consideration of the freedom, boost of confidence, financial and emotional strength it gives the individuals!! It lets them have a sense of self worth!! Again that's not even taking into consideration the help and relief it may provide for the care takers and/or parents that need to work themselves, especially single parents or care givers!! I'd hate to see the community lose this!! Thank you for your time and consideration.	
Email 38	Family Member	To whom It may concern, We are writing to you regarding the possible upcoming cuts to funding of the day programs in Az. through AHCCS. We are the parents of a 43 year old daughter with cerebral palsy and developmental disabilities. Our daughter, [NAME], has been attending the MARC center workshop since arriving in Arizona 5 years ago. Working at the MARC Center has made such a difference in her life.....gives her life meaning . She now feels like a real part of society. Our daughter would not be able to work outside in the community due to her disabilities. If this program is cut she would be devastated, as would we. She was so very upset when this news was announced - her exact words were "what will I do if I don't have my job?" Please look to other sources to save money. Our disabled children work each day not for the money, but the self worth and accomplishment they feel. Perhaps it would behoove you to visit the MARC Centers and see the comradery these people have with each other as a team. Please, we ask you, in good consciousness do not cut this program and hurt our most vulnerable citizens who trust and depend on us.	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 39	Family Member	Every day [NAME], gets up and goes to work at his job in the sheltered workshop at MARC center. Every day he is happy to get up, cheerfully get dressed, and practically run into his job from excitement. I am passionate about my job as a hospice nurse, but most mornings I wish my alarm clock would just die. My brother [NAME], is 41 years old and has fragile X syndrome. He is wonderful, loving, kind, charitable and willing to help anyone who asks. He is also willing to get in their car and ride off with them. Although Matt is 6 foot 2 and 200 pounds, he has poor muscle tone and very poor motor planning, he cannot do the physical things that a typical person of his stature can do, but because he looks “normal” people expect him to. When he falls short, anger erupts, and he does not know how to deal with it. [NAME], naiveté has almost resulted in other adults attempting to punch him. He has no safety awareness. He cannot read, drive, understand how to use the bus, shop, fix food, or complete all of his personal care by himself. Please imagine these disenfranchised adults who sometimes drool, or have seizures, or are incontinent in a competitive work environment. They will be “competed” into glorified day care. Day programs are great if that is the least restrictive environment, but for [NAME], it would be mind-numbingly boring. Places like MARC and other sheltered programs offer something that we just cannot get anywhere else- a living. Imagine having no real reason to get up in the morning. Please do not take jobs away from those that cannot speak for themselves! <i>[Excerpt of email submission]</i>	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 40	Family Member	I am the stepfather to [NAME], , a client and employee of the MARC CENTER at Signal Butte and Main in Mesa. It is a very important part of my sons life that he enjoys the	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of

		<p>opportunity to be a productive member of our work force. It also allows him to see his friends and coworkers each week which without the MARC CENTER he would not. You see [NAME], is blind and disabled. His entire social experience revolves around his interaction at the CENTER. His ability to enter events at the Arizona Special Olympics, the bowling league at East Mesa Bowl, the acceptance by his peers create an atmosphere of self worth he would doubtless not enjoy. His self esteem and self worth are all gauged by his interaction with those who share the disabled life and accept him. The very act of applying for and getting hired outside the MARC CENTER workshop would not happen. The joy he shows when he receives his check is indescribable. Though the pay is considerably less than a sighted person his feeling of being a part of the whole is evident. HE is a contributor in our society. The majority of employers would not even consider hiring [NAME], yet he fills a niche and feels the weight of responsibility for his job. Less than fifty years ago the accepted response to bringing a child into the world who was disabled was to send them away, institutionalize them and forget they existed. Thank God times are changing. They feel a sense of pride when they don't share the same reliance on federal entitlements as others in their same situation. They are excited when they see the fruits of their labor in a product they worked on being sold at Target or Costco. The general sense is they are members of the community workforce and the community at large. The paid work activities play an important part in the social wellbeing and growth of these people. They strengthen our lives with their positive outlook and genuine love of our entire race. There are things in our society that could be done without however this is not one of them. Let these valuable members of our society preform their jobs. Let them enjoy being contributors in the workplace and providers of joy.</p>	<p>AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>
Email 41	Family Member	<p>I can't believe you would even consider shutting down the Marc Center! It's such a valuable program!! What little she makes, is her play money. It creates self worth for her. She doesn't want to miss going to the Marc Center East, because she knows she is getting a little bit of money to put in her bank account and she gets to see her friends. SSI deducts the money that she does make at Marc Center East, so it is not creating an extra expense. She can not go out in the work force because of her anxiety and disabilities. She is around people she feels comfortable with. She is reviewed quarterly and is setting goals for herself. This program keeps her active, provides social skills and she has the opportunity to learn new skills. It gives her responsibilities and keeps her active. Please reconsider this program change.</p>	<p>Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>
Email 43	Community Member	<p>I do respite for a 25 year old young man who works at the Marc's Center and it would be devastating if this center was closed down. He loves his job and he needs to socialization that it gives him. He is non-verbal and very much depends on people to watch him. Although he is very smart in his own right he still needs supervision in a working setting. He will always give 100% at the Marc Center but for his own growth he needs the social atmosphere where it makes him feel liked and accomplished, plus the little bit of money he makes helps him to buy things he loves like headphones and such and it gives him good practice with money when we do go to the store, it is one of his</p>	<p>Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>

		goals. There is no way he could ever work out in a public setting. Because he is non verbal and needs to be directed on what he needs to be doing. The customers would never be able to communicate with him and therefore it would be frustrating for both him and the customer. His parents also have little means of transportation and for them to have to drive him around to various jobs would cause a huge hardship on his family. Please don't close down the Marc Center these special kids need to have a place to go where they are accepted and loved and feel very accomplished and proud of themselves.	
Email 44	Family Member	As a parent of a disabled adult, a sister of a disabled adult, and a teacher of special education, i am deeply concerned about the possible cut (or elimination) to center-based work activities. <u>Those who work through these centers certainly do NOT need more restrictive day programs!!</u> If that was all they could handle, that's where they'd be going already! They also can NOT handle regular competitive employment, or again, don't you think they would be doing so? Believe me, we would love for them to be in the competitive workplace if they could. Indeed, both my son and my sister tried working in the competitive environment, but my son had to quit (the job WE found for him) after two weeks because it was too stressful and overwhelming, and he didn't get the support and repetitive training he needs. My sister was brought under DDD center-based employment due to struggles with social skills (very common in those with cognitive disabilities or autism). She needed someone to coach her, as MARC center did, on when she could talk, when she shouldn't, and how to handle conflict. A regular employer would have just fired her. <u>We come to these centers because that is where our loved ones fit best, and in fact it's the only place they fit!!</u> And finally, the best reason: I have read the law. It is NOT intended to be a means for budget cutting by state agencies, but only a way to get more individuals with disabilities out in the community, <u>IF they have the skills. Many if not most, don't.</u> Just like schools are required to offer a full spectrum of educational settings and services for students with disabilities, so the state should do the same. Cutting these center based programs means many, many individuals with disabilities would be stuck at home, unable to work at all, too high-functioning for a day program. It would be devastating and cruel. <i>[Excerpt of email submission]</i>	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg.310) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 45	Family Member	My son, [NAME], has autism. For several years, he's worked at Gompers Vocational Center. It is a safe, structured environment that he enjoys going to. [NAME], due to his autism requires a routine setting. Putting him out in the community would NOT be the best placement for him. Please, oh please, keep [NAME], in mind before YOU decide to turn his happy, structured life UP SIDE DOWN. Think!!! Would you like someone who has NEVER walked in your shoes decide (even if they mean well) to mess with YOUR job, mess with YOUR location, mess with your LIFE. Instead, poll the individual and/or their families. Disrupt ONLY those ASKING for this change, NEEDING this change, WANTING this change.	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg.310) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 46	Family Member	Our son [NAME], is 48 years old and has been in the CBE (Center Based Employment) program for 20 plus years. At one point he was in the community with a competitive job and it did not work out for him. He needs the shelter and structure of a CBE program.	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS

		<p>He had no stranger/danger skills and even though self- sufficient in some areas needs constant supervision and to be monitored/directed. The CBE job Marc Center provides him is meaningful and gives purpose to his life. He understands that he is being paid based on what he can achieve and sometimes he is really good at striving for these goals and then there are those other times. When he is paid, he is totally proud of the paycheck he receives even though the amount would be minimal to you or I, such as an average \$35.00 a month. He can identify with others in his family because they work and get paid just as he does. Why anyone would think that businesses that are so competitive today would hire people that cannot maintain a specific level of productivity is beyond us. Marc Center does an excellent job of providing piece work for these individuals that they can be successful at doing and at the same time motivate them to try even harder. On top of this Marc Center provides other social after work activities such as Oasis, dances, craft night, etc. At some point we realize that he will need to retire from the CBE workshop and then a day type program would be beneficial where he can go and be social but not have to work. So then our next questions to you are: what happens to these people that cannot function in the competitive employment? What other LTC benefits are being looked at to be eliminated? Where can we go to find out more information such as what Federal Law? Why as parents and legal guardians are we just being notified of this at this late date – you have our names and addresses? <i>[Excerpt of email submission]</i></p>	has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 47	Family Member	<p>I'm writing in response to the changes being proposed by new Federal Laws. My son is 41 years old, has Fragile X, and IBS. He has worked in the community, Box Smart, Insight, and Basha's. He has always enjoyed his work, and looks forward to going each day. He always has something to tell when he gets home. He really prefers working in the workshop. The jobs vary, and he can socialize with his peers, and the staff. Working in the community is not for everyone. The key word, is working, having a job, and getting paid. Not everyone is able to work in the community, they can work, but with behavior and medical issues and yes drooling, it is not in their best interest. My concern is, if the workshop has to close or only can accept certain individuals, where well all the people? My husband and I are planning on attending the Gilbert Forum. We tried calling, but it would not, but we get sound no person or computer!!!!</p>	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 48	Family Member	<p>My husband and I would like to introduce you to our two sons, [NAME], and [NAME], , who is four years younger. Both are mentally retarded but the doctors do not know why. He grew in his skills and one day MARC decided he was ready to try working in the cafeteria at Tempe High School four hours a day. He was so excited. He was a contracted employee, had a paycheck, a bank account and some pocket money. Twice his supervisors changed causing a problem for [NAME], so the MARC Center sent someone over to teach the supervisors and [NAME], how to communicate and work together. Well, he’s worked at Tempe High (Go Buffalos!) for thirty years, is in the</p>	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.

		<p>State Retirement System and while he has BEEN paid HE ALSO HAS BEEN PAYING for his apartment, food, clothing, medical bills and INCOME TAX! All this thanks to the MARC Center staff! [NAME], graduated from Getz School and we felt very comfortable taking him to the MARC Center as we were confident they could develop his abilities without making him feel inferior or unimportant. This is a crucial factor when you are teaching someone. He had many jobs. One day we went to the Home Depot Hardware department and [NAME], walked over and checked out the boxes of screws. The labels were not on straight! He said, "These were NOT made at the MARC Center! We do them right." The MARC Center is a place where everyone can feel comfortable. The staff understands them and cares about them. The handicapped WANT to learn and grow. They WANT to have friends. They WANT to have jobs and get a paycheck even if it is small. They WANT to contribute to the community and to do that, they need places like the MARC Center! The staff understands, loves, cares and teaches. <i>[Excerpt of email submission]</i></p>	
Email 49	Family Member	<p>I am a parent/guardian of a 33 year old special needs young lady. She is actively working in the MARC Center work program. My daughter is thriving from this work environment. Since she has been part of this program for the last 6 years or so, her self esteem has grown in leaps and bounds. What a sense of pride to walk down the aisle at Target and see the medical first aid kits she has helped put together actually for sale to the public. Some of my issues with the upcoming changes being considered are: She would loose the job that she loves so much, not to mention the fact that she would be unemployable. What would she do all day? This job has helped my daughter overcome some self mutilating tendencies that she had with idle time and boredom. My daughter had a job in the community and it was a negative experience for her. She feels safe in the work center at the MARC Center. I fear if she lost her work program she would revert back to her negative behaviors. Please take the time to consider these individuals that need this and other programs like this to survive, not only financially but emotionally. I appreciate your compassionate and thoughtful consideration in this very important matter.</p>	<p>Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>
Email 50	Family Member	<p>It is a sad indictment of a society that funds mulimillion dollar vacations for government officials and families and refuse to care for those who cannot care for themselves. We have two mentally challanged sons who have some sense of self worth due in part to the MARC Center program..Most if not all of the participants at MARC CENTER would be unable to enjoy any quallity of life with out the additonal social and work involmnet provided by this type of service.. You might consider Challanging PUBLICLY a FED Law that disfranchizes a minority population.</p>	<p>Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>
Email 51	Family Member	<p>My son has attended the Marc Community Resources Inc., since July 2006. Due to his head injury, his disability he has not been able to hold employment in a public setting. The Marc Center has provided continual building of his self-confidence in all areas of his life along with giving him the sense that his life is worth something. He has the confidence that he can finish something that he starts, which gives him a deep sense of achievement and self- worth. He feels he is contributing to the productivity needed in</p>	<p>Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>

		<p>the economy and his community. His hope is that someday he will acquire the experience needed to hold permanent employment. He has come a very long way in so many ways and could have not done it without the center offering this experience for a better tomorrow, as he continues to build work experience, instructions on how to complete an application and friendships and using his time in an enjoyable and productive way. It would be a disaster the clients to have their life taken from them, as well as what it will do to their families. Our request is that this all day program will not be eliminated. It would be most appreciated for AHCCCS to continue this center based paid work activities for my son as well as others who participate in this program. This is their life outside the their home. Thank you for what you have provided and what our hope is that you will continue.</p>	
Email 52	Family Member	<p>I'm writing this e-mail to express my concern about a notice that I received regarding the possible elimination of funding for CBE programs. My son, [NAME], , works at Marc Center in Mesa. He is an adult with developmental disabilities and some medical issues. [NAME], does well working in a supervised setting and flourishes in that work environment. [NAME], doesn't require the restrictive setting of a day program. My son does not however, recognize some major safety issues...i.e., stranger danger and the like, and would not do well working in the community as a result. I feel that my son would possibly be taken advantage of in a situation that was not supervised like the setting he presently work in. [NAME], feels a great sense of accomplishment at his job. He tells me about the different projects that he's working on and he feels a great sense of self worth as a result of performing these tasks. Regardless of the money that is earned, [NAME], loves working at Marc Center and takes pride in what he does. To see this program dissolved as a result of funding would be a travesty. There is a large population of people like my son that are being so well served by this program. I can only speak for my son, but I can assure you that this program has provided [NAME], with a sense of normalcy and it also provides the opportunity for interaction with his peers. PLEASE continue to fund this program so that Brian and thousands of others can lead a productive and contented life. Thanks in advance for your consideration in this important matter.</p>	<p>Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>
Email 53	Family Member	<p>It has come to our attention that the Center-Based Employment (CBE) program that serves adults with developmental disabilities is on the chopping block in Arizona. Our son, [NAME], , currently works in a CBE environment and brings home about \$35.00 every two weeks. That's \$70.00 a month. He gets up every morning to tell us he has to go to work for the day. Because he's grown up in a household that values hard work, he knows he's making us proud. And, he is proud of himself for having a job. His CBE is a huge contributing factor. While [NAME], is a hard worker, he is also very trusting. He does not carry his own debit card in his wallet. He's had money, sunglasses, and other personal items stolen when out in the community with minimal support. When he's calm and unstressed, he can give his home address and phone numbers for my husband and myself. Not so when he's distressed. The extra support he receives from the CBE program provides him a safe, low-risk environment that allows him to explore different</p>	<p>Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>

		<p>job options without the worry of being taken advantage of. Through his participation in the community, both in school and now at his CBE, Dylan is a contributing member of society. He is proud of himself, and even though his paychecks are very small, they're still paychecks. Every time he brings one home, he tells his dad that he can use his money for lunch, so dad doesn't have to give him money. Adults with developmental disabilities live life at a disadvantage. The CBE programs in the community offer them opportunities that, otherwise, would not be possible. A \$35.00 paycheck certainly won't make them rich in terms of money, but it makes them rich in terms of their self-worth and sense of pride and accomplishment. We're asking you to PLEASE, consider the very real impact cutting the CBE program will have on the lives of these special adults. Is \$35.00 a paycheck too much to ask? <i>[Excerpt of email submission]</i></p>	
Email 54	Family Member	<p>It is my understanding that you are meeting about budgetary concerns. It seems that once again you are targeting those who are unable to defend or speak for themselves. I find it very disgusting that you are even considering cutting services to center-based paid work activities. My son is 40 years old and has Down Syndrome. He has worked part-time in the competitive market as a courtesy clerk for minimum wage for 20 years. During that time he NEVER had a friend or social situations he was invited to. When not at the grocery store he attended a center-based program, where he had friends, a feeling of accomplishment in a work environment that matched his needs. I wonder why you would even consider eliminating individuals with documented IQ's of 30-50, other behavior and health issues, and unable to discriminate to where they have nothing. Those individuals in the center-based work centers are there because it provides them with a safe environment where they are productive citizens, self-worth is increased, and a definite feeling of accomplishing a job. Wages may be an issue, but these individuals are paid by a time study system that has worked for well over 40 years. These individuals do not need day programming because their abilities and needs would not be met, because they need work to feel accomplishment. <i>[Excerpt of email submission]</i></p>	<p>Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>
Email 55	Family Member	<p>MARC CENTER has been a blessing for our son, IT would be nice if could be in a MORE COMPETITIVE ENVIROMENT but TIME PHASED BEHAVIOR EMPLOYMENT may cause UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES for not only our son but others. IT is this parents opinion that the STATE of ARIZONA has not caught up with it's support mechanisms for those DIAGNOSED with DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITES after the age of 18. MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE AND BEHAVIOR is ADVANCING all of the time. MY son and others that were in VARIOUS ARIZONA SCHOOL SYTEMS in 80 – 90's resulting in the late diagnoses of various DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES are in the middle of a corn maze . Thank GOD for MARC CENTER and OTHERS who have a direct involvement with physically and mentally challenged individuals. <i>[Excerpt of email submission]</i></p>	<p>Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>
Email 56	Family Member	<p>My disable daughter and other in "PERRY Foundation" are related to Day and Employment Programs, got motivation FOR WORK AND LIFE, GIVEN WITH BIG EFFORT MADE FROM STAFF AND TEACHERS. On the beginning we were skeptical about her attention to do something, but later she SHOWN THAT SHE CAN</p>	<p>Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>

		DO MANY THINGS AND BECAME BETTER CONCENTRATION AND ACHJVEMENT. Our support to her and weekly contact and control with “PERRY FOUNDATION STAFF” encourage her to REACH higher level of work activities. THIS EFFORT IS IMMEASURABLE. In the group she is safety and motivated to do more and more, and is laughing when the job is finished. Also, she is working by hands and IMPROVING HER FINE MOVEMENT, WHAT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR HER AND US. THESE BOTH PROGRAMS IN “PERRY FOUNDATION” ARE GOOD ORGANIZED ACCORDING THE CLIENTS POSSIBILITIES TO DO ACTIVITIES. I HAVE LAST MY DAUGHTER’S CHECK OF \$18.99, for work of 22 hours, with pay rate \$.95/hour, and dedication TAXES for MED=\$.30 AND SS=\$1.28. THIS AMOUNT, WHEN SHE GOT, MADE SHE “HAPPY TO THE SKY”, BECAUSE HER THINKS THAT HER WORK IS VALUED, AND SHE IS PART OF THE COMMUNITY!!! <i>[Excerpt of email submission]</i>	
Email 58	Family Member	We need you to please continue funding the CBE (Center-Based Employment) programs for the disabled population, which includes our son. This program is the only place that our son could have meaningful employment. He does not need a more restrictive day program or a program that only offers entertainment choices. The potential loss of long term care services for him and the rest of the disabled population would be a disservice to them. If left to those types of programs, my son would sit by himself all day and rock and flap with little or no interaction with other people. My son has no comprehension skills in regards to time, danger/and or stranger-danger, the value of money and its worth and what it can do. He cannot be left alone by himself, and only understands 2-3 directions at the most and needs much supervision to stay on task and complete the job. He needs people who have been trained to help and care for people such as our son. He would not be able to be hired out in community employment and be able to hold down a job. The work he does at CBE are things that he can understand and do with consistent supervision as simple as they may be. He has a sense of accomplishment and pride that he can go to work each day and participate in this environment. We sincerely ask you to keep in place the CBE and long term care services that are already in effect. It would be an extreme hardship for our family if these services were not offered.	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 60	Family Member	We are writing in regards to proposed changes to restrict or eliminate center-based employment. We are the parents of a 50 year old developmentally disabled son who currently participates in work activities at MARC. Our son attempted community employment in the past and was fired. He is almost completely deaf, has limited verbal skills, is mentally handicapped and has behavioral issues. Center based employment is his only option. Working in the community without adequate supervision poses a number of safety issues for these individuals who are not high functioning and do not recognize danger, or when someone is trying to take advantage of them. Companies cannot and will not provide that type of supervision. Additionally, few companies can afford to hire an employee whose productivity is marginal. At MARC we don’t have to worry about his safety and we can rely on the continuity of employment. Our son is very proud of the work he does and the paychecks he receives, no matter the amount. Our son	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.

		enjoys the interaction with his co-worker friends and workshop staff. Outside of work our son socializes with the other residents of his group home and attends various activities such as movies and sporting events. Additionally, we frequently have him home on weekends to attend family functions such as soccer games for our grandchildren and family dinners. We are retired and my husband is 80 years old. We worry about our son's future and what will happen when we are gone. Please do not eliminate the only job he has available in a safe and caring environment.	
Email 61	Family Member	In our estimation, it would be most ill-advised to eliminate Center Based Employment. Our daughter has been a client at the MARC Center in Mesa for 15 years. She has a permanent impairment (since birth) that limits her mental (not physical) abilities. She reads at only a 2 nd grade level and is 36 years of age. At MARC she has the opportunity to engage in productive employment, including 2 days per week working at Basha's grocery stores under the supervision of MARC work coaches/supervisors. Her disability would make it impossible for her to compete for employment in the job marketplace in our community. Elimination of her Center Based Employment option would deprive her of the ability to be productive and perform meaningful work in the economic community. Hundreds, possibly thousands, of people in her situation, would be relegated to "warehousing" situations where they are essentially in "baby sitting" environments. We don't see how this can be justified by any standard, whether moral, ethical, or economic. Elimination of the funding for CBE's would fit the classic definition of "penny-wise and pound foolish."	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 62	Family Member	I was recently made aware that changes in the Federal Law may cause the Arizona Government to cancel the AHCCCS funded CBE programs. As a parent of a participant in this program I am furious that the Legislators of this great state would consider this act. I am a Native of this state since 1961 and I say that with great pride when someone asks me how long have you lived here "I'm a native". My Daughter has several Mental Illnesses that have prevented her from getting or holding a job since high school. Prior to her introduction to the Marc Center she felt like her life was a failure and had no sense of self-worth. She would cry alone in her room on a regular basis, with no friends and was in a state of depression. She spent her days in her room with the curtains closed and just shut the world out. She has become a completely different person since she was introduced to the Marc Center. She now feels like she has a real job with friends that she can communicate with on a daily basis. She is very proud of what she has accomplished and the fact that she is able earn and income is very rewarding to her. My daughter has been traumatize over the years as she has been hired for entry level positions, mainly in the food service industry, just to be let go in the first several days of employment. The reason is the same every time," I just don't think it's going to work out" She just can't adjust to the demands of working in a community job and the fast pace that is required. This may be the only meager source of income that my Daughter will ever know. I ask as a parent of and adult child that has been physically and mentally transformed by this program and the leaders that run it, please look deep into your souls and ask yourselves. If this was my child or family member in this program what could or would I do to	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.

		preserve the self-worth of these tender souls. Do the right thing and lets not take another positive program away from these individuals that have almost nothing in life to live for except this program. I ask you as a Proud Citizen of the State Of Arizona, preserve the CBE Program at the Marc Center that is funded through AHCCCS.	
Email 63	Family Member	I am the parent of a developmentally delayed and mentally challenged adult, [NAME], aged 45. Dawn has been a client at the MARC Center since 1991, after she graduated from high school. I was shocked and disappointed to hear that employment options are being taken away from my daughter and other individuals with disabilities. Competitive Community Employment has never been a successful option for [NAME]. She needs formal support in a safe environment to feel a sense of accomplishment. The MARC Center provides this important and meaningful opportunity for [NAME]. Her last community employment left her feeling isolated and frustrated. She was let go because of low productivity and too many illnesses. This experience was very disheartening for her and frustrating for us, as her parents, as well. Additionally, there are very few opportunities in the community for mentally challenged adults. Center Based Employment gives [NAME], a sense of self worth, achievement and pride as she has never experienced in any community employment. She is so proud of her daily accomplishments and it is reflected in the brief summary she gets from her job coach. Please preserve this program. It is a low risk environment for these individuals with much a needed support system for their success.	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 64	Family Member	<p>We have reviewed the AHCCCS Assessment and Transition plan in an attempt to determine its potential affect on our son [NAME], if any. After this review we do not have any major concerns with the Group Home Assessment and Transition Plans as they seem to be pretty straight forward and understandable. On the other hand in regards to the Center Based Employment we have strong comments and are deeply troubled by the direction that is being proposed. It does not seem like any consideration is being given for them as individuals other than the need to push them into a setting that may not be in their best interest. As stated our son is 48 years and does not adapt or accept change! As his Mother I cannot see these changes happening for him and I see a very unhappy individual because the workshop as he knows it is no longer there.</p> <p>1) No where in the assessment/ transition does it mention keeping or supporting the current CBE program or sheltered workshop which provides a controlled and protected environment. [NAME] has no stranger/danger skills and every person he encounters he considers a friend!</p> <p>2) Not sure what "transition the CBE to a "facility based pre-employment" and into a pre-vocational service focusing on developing non-job-task strengths/skills with goal of integrated employment. Where does this leave those clients unable to achieve or maintain these goals that look good on paper?</p> <p>3) The entire proposal appears to be geared towards getting the clients into an environment that may not be safe and a tragic upset to their life styles! The rules also seem to apply to a person with just a disability as apposed to people with intellectual disabilities and behavioral problems like our son and others like him.</p>	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.

		6) The proposal states that businesses are required to hire these individuals! The reality in today's work environment with people out of work is that the business will hire the person that can do the job to their expectations at a competitive rate. <i>[Excerpt of email submission]</i>	
Email 65	Family Member	<p>I could not believe the notice I received telling me that AHCCCS was considering changes to restrict or eliminate center-based employment. I immediately began to cry knowing what this decision would mean to my son. He is multiply handicapped and would never be employed with competitive community employment. Center-based employment has changed his life in the following ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In DTT he never used most of the skills he had worked on for 18 years of schooling. In center-based employment he is using those skills and gaining more. 2. He is in a safe, caring environment where no one will take advantage of him. He does not know that anyone is a stranger or dangerous and would go with anyone. 3. He has a job and feels such pride knowing that he is working and bringing home a paycheck. He tells everyone he sees where he works and that he gets paid to do his job 4. Everyone who possibly can needs to have some kind of work to do. My son does not want to be entertained with activities and outings. Those things are fun on occasion, but not on a daily basis. He does not want to go someplace where he feels like someone is simply babysitting him. He wants to have a job. 7. He is so much more independent. He is blind, has CP, and mental retardation, but has learned to use Dial-A-Ride (which he never would have done without center-based employment). He can independently do everything in his work environment. He can get out of the taxi and walk with his walker to the correct door, wait in the appropriate area until work begins, do his individual job, find the restroom at breaks, go to lunch, and go to the taxi after work to return home. <p>I do not know which new federal law would curtail center-based employment, but it would be doing a gigantic disservice to those disabled persons who cannot find employment in other places and are benefitting in so many ways from this life-changing program.</p>	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 66	Family Member	<p>I was recently informed that you are considering not continuing to have paid Center Based Employment. My son [NAME] is 37 yrs. old and has Autism. He has been attending MARC Center in Mesa. He is doing extremely well there. I like that he has a safe, clean and secure place to work in. And he is very happy to receive a pay check. It makes him feel that he can accomplish something for doing his work at the Center. As far as working in the community -- most companies will <u>not</u> hire a person with a disability. Unfortunately, people with Autism and other disabilities need a special environment to work in and be safe. They are not aware of "<i>stranger danger</i>" at all. My son once was approached after leaving a bank to cash his check and the guy just put his hand in my son's pocket and took the little bit of money he had. Then gave him back \$5.00 so he could get home. I do not want to see this repeated. I have had to go to numerous hearings and to court to have my son be able to attend this program and to</p>	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.

		<p>have him approved both in New York and Arizona. You would think when a person has a disability that the state would be more than willing to help them. Instead of giving them more grief to go through with. I sincerely hope and pray that you continue with the Center Based Employment for everyone's sake. They have enough challenges to deal with, they certainly don't need any more to have to contend with.</p>	
Email 67	Member	<p>Hello,my name is [NAME] i'm very satisfied hear doing training assembly work here at the Marc Center of Country Club in Mesa,Arizona i've been hear going on 3 years i would like to keep it open.</p>	<p>Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>
Email 68	Family Member	<p>I am writing this email because I am outraged that effective employment options are being taken away from the Marc center. My brother in law in an employee at this agency and I am very upset to here that his job may be taken away. The center-based employment offered at the Marc center is the perfect job for my brother in law. His name is [NAME] and he takes pride in his job. You should see the sense of accomplishment and pride on his face when he shows off the paychecks that he earns from the Marc center. He is able to work with people who understand his needs. He is able to work with other people who are disabled and doesn't feel so isolated or alone for being different. It is a safe environment that he shows progress in and the thought of it being taken away is very concerning. The program offers the perfect schedule for [NAME] and are very flexible. They are very understanding of all his needs. I honestly don't there is any other place that would be willing to be so patient. I want him to keep working because it really helps him feel accomplished and important. The Marc center has created the perfect environment, there is no other place that can offer the same support [NAME] gets here. They never take advantage of [NAME] and always treat him with respect. I am concerned that he will not be able to find this at other facilities. Not only am I concerned that he wont be able to get the same treatment at another job, I am concerned that he will even be able to find one. People with disabilities are the last to be hired and the first to be fired as the economy changes. He needs a job in order to feel a sense of inclusion and to feel connected to the community. Please consider all the lives that you are negatively effecting when making these decisions.</p>	<p>Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 21) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>
Email 69	Member	<p>My name is [NAME]. I finished serving a prison sentence in 2005 and was diagnosed with PSD shortly after. I was not working, living in a half-way house and not receiving much assistance or encouragement. A friend of mine came and told me about Marc Community Resources. This organization and the services they provide have been very beneficial for me. Over the past 3.5 years, I have participated in their living skills workshops, job development and education programs. These programs helped me to get back into the community and become a productive citizen. Overall, I learned how to cope with my challenges and daily responsibilities. I have a 12 grade education but due to my Dyslexia I had a very hard time reading. The Marc Community Resources education program has greatly helped me improve my much needed reading and communications skills. The workshops helped me understand and develop good work-based skills including</p>	<p>Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>

		<p>dependability, time-management, teamwork and other coping skills. I was able to progress to the job development programs which included working a regular schedule supervising other clients to complete daily assigned tasks and managing quality control. This helped me obtain a current part-time job in the community at Arizona State University. The CBE program Marc Community Resources provides has been invaluable to me. I don't know what I would be doing if my friend had not told me about Marc. Not only have I been able to become a productive employee, I have much more confidence and have become self-sufficient. I am now living independently in my own trailer, own my own car, and pay my own bills. This is all because of how Marc programs have and are still helping me.</p> <p>It is critical that people such as me have CBE opportunities available to increase independence in a safe and structured environment. AHCCCS needs to continue to support agencies in offering these programs.</p>	
Email 70	Family Member	<p>If CBE (Center-Based Employment) were stopped [NAME] would have to stay home all the time. She would spend her time sitting in her room watching TV. That is not good for anyone. [NAME] has worked at the Marc Center since 1987. This is where friends are and her whole life. While attending Marc they have tried to have her work outside the center. This has not been successful. While working at a Basha's store she had a very nasty employee for the store that said some very bad things to her. After that she refused to go back to the store. She also can not go out in parking lot to gather shopping baskets as she does not watch the car traffic. She did not work well in the grocery store and would need a job coach if she did that full time. I believe Marc had many complaints about her work. <i>[Excerpt of email submission]</i></p>	<p>Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>
Email 71	Family Member	<p>Our daughter, who is in her late thirties and is intellectually-challenged, attends one of these CBE's (Center-Based Employment) five days a week. Her intellectual and physical capabilities limit her to very repetitive work assignments where direction, instruction, and monitoring is present or close-at-hand. In most cases visual aides are provided to assist her in the performance of the task and to insure accuracy of the final product. She has worked in a community job for several years prior to the CBE. She worked a couple of hours for several days a week. Over time her time was reduced where her earnings didn't cover the cost of Dial-A-Ride transportation. She anxiously looks forward to going to work at the CBE each day. Missing a day is sheer misery for her. She is proud of the work she does and has a great sense of achievement. Each payday she proudly shows us her paycheck. The amount of check doesn't matter – it's a check and she earned it. It also places her in an environment where she is with friends (individuals in similar situations) and also in the community with people in general. If not for the CBE she and many of the others would be condemned to isolation and regress in the social skills needed to survive in our society. Competitive community employment requires independent thinking, multitasking, prioritizing tasks, performing tasks in timely and efficient manner, and performing task with little or no supervision. Our daughter and many of the others at the CBE require considerable direction, instruction, supervision and a repetitive work assignment; thus cannot meet the needs of a</p>	<p>Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>

		community employer. <i>[Excerpt of email submission]</i>	
Email 72	Family Member	<p>I represent my sister, [NAME], who lives with a developmental disability, as well as our family, who are her guardians. [NAME] is currently employed by AFH, a Center-Based Employment provider for special needs adults. It has come to my family's attention that based on a new federal law, CBE programs like AFH may become eliminated or restricted in some way. I am sending this email, along with what I'm sure are a fair few people, to protest this interpretation of the law. My sister has benefited so much from these programs – in the short time she's been working with AFH, her social skills and sense of responsibility have increased dramatically, and she's starting to have a better outlook on life. She's learned to communicate more, and she has a lot of fun; it helps her build her self-worth. Without programs like these, [NAME] would either be forced to stay at home (where we do our best, but are not medical/psychological professionals) or to go to another, less viable option like community-based options where specialized support isn't always an option. These CBE centers offer low-risk employment and empowerment opportunities for these guys, who often don't recognize the unfortunate dangers of other options (such as being taken advantage of). I sincerely hope you take into consideration these thoughts and others from families like mine. These opportunities are rare for [NAME], and I would have to see her lose them. Thank you for your consideration.</p>	<p>Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>
Email 73	Family Member	<p>Without the structured environment of a CBE (Center-Based Employment), they would not have any other work option, and a day program is considered to be a more "restrictive" placement as their needs are very different from those clients typically placed in day programs. They deserve the right to have what they consider to be gainful employment, not a recreational type of program. I am the legal guardian and "foster" parent for a young woman who has autism, OCD and is mentally handicapped. She was my student when I was a special education teacher, and has lived with me for sixteen years. [NAME] has worked in a CBE setting for the past six years. When she graduated from high school, I observed a variety of programs to find one that would best meet her needs. I know the CBE program is the <u>only</u> employment option for her due to significant behavioral and academic challenges. They provide the structure, guidance, and trained staff needed for her to be successful. Patsy is very proud of her job, and feels a sense of accomplishment every day. She is so eager to share her daily production totals the staff writes on her calendar, that she doesn't even greet me until she has shown me what she has done. She loves getting her paycheck, regardless of the amount, as she knows it is a reflection of all of her hard work. A typical job in the community would not be able to meet [NAME] needs for a variety of reasons. They would not have coworkers trained to deal with her severe outbursts, understand her communication limitations, know how to arrange the environment to reduce her anxiety, or be even be able to guarantee her safety as she has no understanding of "stranger danger". She is very gullible, and could be talked into any number of situations that would not be positive for her. I would not be willing to put her at that type of risk. If not having a job in the regular community is a concern for AHCCCS and the new federal guidelines, rest</p>	<p>Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>

		assured that Patsy has many opportunities to interact with the general public, as she travels, shops, goes to movies, dines out, etc., with me. She is not lacking in her exposure to people in the community. <i>[Excerpt of email submission]</i>	
Email 75	Family Member	<p>We are the parents of a son who has Down's Syndrome. He has worked at Marc Center since graduating from high school. Although he is capable of performing many different tasks such as the ones required in contracted jobs that the Marc Center receives, when he was given an opportunity to try working out in the community, he was unable to meet the expectations of the job.</p> <p><i>Center-based paid work:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -provides a way for people, including our son, to contribute and have some independence -provides a safe work environment where they can function at their various levels of ability -there is not a fear of being taken advantage of (our son would not recognize danger) -community employment is not a viable alternative for many of these citizens who desire to work <p>-those working in CBE are not in need of a more restrictive day program; they have the ability to perform many different tasks very well! Please do not eliminate center-based paid work environments such as the Marc Center! It enables this special needs population in our society to be productive and experience a feeling of worth by being able to perform the work given to them and by being a part of the working world like others around them.</p>	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 76	Family Member	<p>We are the parents of a daughter that works at Marc Center. She works 2 days a week at Basha's and we are very concerned about any changes made thru this program. Our daughters involvement with Marc Center has been nothing but GREAT, EXCITING, and WORTHWHILE. With the guidance from Marc Center at the onsite at Bashas with supervision while she is working in the community is far superior to anything we've been involved within the past 41 years of her life. The IQ for children like her is low. She and others like her need to be told and reminded frequently of the old saying of stranger danger. They are trusting of the people around them. We've experienced this situation. Her self-worth and achievement built on employment has given her self confidence and the meaning of a dollar earned. She now has a bank account with money she has earned and is very proud of it. Just recently she was out to dinner with friends and they offered to pay for her meal. She said "no" I have a job and I have my own money. What a shout out for her and with the job she has earned some independence. Our daughters growth has been nothing but positive. Her self-worth and achievement which makes her hard work worth while. She has learned to be a hard worker. Young people like her need to be valued and challenged in what they do. Without this program - center based employed - this would not be possible. They can't compete for wages without that support. Makes them feel more normal and part of the community. Please consider all these pluses for this type of program. It is so important that they have this type of workplace to live their life to the fullest. They deserve this opportunity.</p>	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 77	Member	I'm going to tell you a story about me, now. I haven't had a employment within the	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment

		<p>public sector job since 2001. I went on SSDI right around that time. I heard the whispers that people tell others that I should get a job, this and that. Right now it's pretty interesting with my situation. I have both seizures (not declared) and bipolar disorder. My medications per month from my dentist, psychiatrist, and neurologist alone are, at least, roughly \$2,000.00 per month. This is with both AHCCCS and Medicare under the Quality Medicare Benefit, I have UnitedHealthcare Community Plan HMO SNP. I would need medical, dental, and behavioral health benefits up front, no questions asked, from any perspective employer. Since this will never happen, I'm sharing the rent with my parents with my SSDI as I would need to be making roughly anywhere between \$100,000.00 - \$120,000.00 to be living on my own with ObamaCare, all things considered. How many others in the public mental health care system are in my situation just like me I wonder. I heard anyone past six months looking for a job, shouldn't bother. And the state is considering eliminating paid work activities for those persons who would be in dire straits if you eliminate paid work activities. These people, such as myself, need paid work activities to get themselves into a better position to at least have a chance to find paid work in this current public job market as it updates their current work resume.</p> <p><i>[Excerpt of email submission]</i></p>	<p>Transition Plan” (pg.210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>
Email 79	Family Member	<p>I attended a public forum on the proposed Rules changes, and have downloaded the proposal and rules changes. I want to comment on the Employment Services changes primarily. I have a mentally retarded 54 year old daughter, who has provided me with some insights and experience that most people are not privileged to have. She cannot read, cannot count well or deal with money correctly, and she is too small to do labor. There is no magic program that will make it possible for her to transition into the workplace or into volunteer work that requires use of logic. She works very well in a sheltered workshop, assembling rivets for commercial use, and is very proud of her work and her ability to go to work. She is not the only one; some percentage of the population is similarly positioned. With (dis)abilities, as with most human traits, there is a distribution of talents or abilities which peak somewhere, and decline on either side of that peak. We call the peak of the talent distribution 'normal'; those people having talents near the peak are called normal. Mainstreaming works well with persons near normal; the further one gets from normal, the less well mainstreaming works. When you are as far out as my daughter, you often get laughed at and ridiculed. This happens to her even now when she goes to the mall or to movies. Your plan appears to limit the number of such people who cannot be mainstreamed that employment services can help. I don't know how that matches with the fraction of the population so positioned; your words seem to indicate that essentially everybody can and should be mainstreamed. To do that, you would have to educate the entire community on compassion and kindness to others. That might prove to be much more expensive., It is this problem that is not well addressed in your plan to 'mainstream' employment services for disabled populations</p>	<p>Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>
Email 82	Member	<p>I enjoyed professional success after graduating from school in 1996 but developed chronic pain in 2006 that became virtually unmanageable in 2009. I lost my home and</p>	<p>Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of</p>

		<p>my car and became totally dependent on my father. For over three years I was totally unproductive and stayed at home, only leaving for doctor's appointments, pharmacy stops, and trips to the grocery store. My father was desperate for me to regain any kind of employment. I heard about Marc Community Resources through my case manager. For over two years, I participated in the living skills workshop and job development. These programs helped me get out of the house and begin to rejoin the community as well as becoming productive again. The workshop really helped me become dependable and learn much needed time management skills that I had not ever really had to exercise. (When I worked before my neck and back pain took over I had been in charge of my own schedule and never really had had to be anywhere at a time that I did not dictate.) I was able to move on to the job development programs first as a receptionist and coffee cart attendant then to working for the last year at what is now called the Living Skills Workshop (formerly known as the GED Center). I truly feel a deep sense of achievement and self-worth by helping others that I had not experienced in five years. I also feel a sense of mastery and accomplishment but more importantly have been able to focus on and regain compassion for others again instead of solely dwelling on myself and my own issues. Because of the success I have achieved in the Marc CBE programs, I have been able to start to seek employment in the community again. I am extremely concerned that AHCCCS is considering changes that will restrict or eliminate center-based employment. I am truly not sure what would have become of me without the help I received from CBE.</p>	<p>AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>
Email 83	Community Member	<p>I understand that a new federal law is considering changes that will restrict or eliminate CBE (Center Based Employment) throughout the state of Arizona. I have been aware of the MARC Community Resources, and how much they have done for the less fortunate in our community for many years – probably for over 30 years. The CBE needs to be kept funded so people like my niece can contribute to society. This is one program that should stay, and I hope you will see how much good is contributed to our society because of the good that comes out of this program. The program gives people who cannot work in the corporate world, a chance to contribute to society. It also gives the people who are participating in the program a sense of self-worth. It gives them the opportunity to know that there is work for them to do, and they can happily perform and contribute to society. Please take into consideration the good that comes out of the above mentioned program and keep it.</p>	<p>Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>
Email 84	Family Member	<p>As a parent, I am very concerned with the assessment and transition plan as it relates to possible changes to employment services for my son. I have heard through other parents that attended one of the public meetings, that no choices are going to go away. However, when I read the plan and talk to folks, the plan talks about transitioning “center based employment service to a facility-based pre-employment service”. Does this mean that there will be no employment services at center-based facilities? What will happen to [NAME] and will he lose his paycheck that he works so hard to obtain? Also, several families have talked about the option of volunteering. While I am not opposed to volunteer opportunities, [NAME] has learned how to earn a paycheck. Volunteering and</p>	<p>Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>

		not earning a paycheck will be the opposite of what we have been working with him to achieve. I hope that AHCCCS will consider ensuring all options are still available to individuals.	
Email 85	Family Member	My 31 year old son is mild to moderately developmentally delayed. He is also ADHD and has a hard time focusing at times. He is currently attending STARS, and has for 4 years and is in the Work Center. He loves it there and has learned a lot. He not only goes there 5 days a week, he goes to the City of Scottsdale and sorts checks for them one day a week. He loves to help other people whenever he can but he is not quite ready to go out into the work force yet. STARS has done such an excellent job with him, he has learned a lot, it would be very sad to see him lose this. I am worried with this plan and how it will affect him attending STARS. Now he will eventually be able to go out and get a job with the help of STARS, however he is not quite ready yet. I know [NAME] would love to volunteer at STARS if need be, but he would be upset about losing his paycheck. He has learned that the harder he works and the more he accomplishes he earns more and that is really good for his self-esteem. He is so proud when I tell him on payday Fridays how much his check is. I hope all options will be explored	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 86	Family Member	I have a disabled grandson that loves to go to work every day at Marc Center. He is appreciated for the work that he accomplishes daily. They have programs not found in community employment. Out in the regular community, disabled people are not hired in the jobs that they are able to do, nor are they appreciated and accepted as much as they are in the paid work program. My grandson feel a great and deep sense of self-work and achievement going to work each day now. Please do not take that away from him. I am asking that you do not consider the elimination of the paid work activities.	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 87	Family Member	My sister, [NAME] has been working at BHS Workshop at Marc Community Resource Center on Country Club in Mesa since February 2012. To eliminate this work program would adversely affect her life. Not only would she experience financial difficulty which helps her to live independently, but also in her sense of self-worth. She works well in an environment that is low risk for discrimination. She has experienced prior traumatizing events while working in community jobs that had no formal support such as MARC offers. I have concerns about her safety and being taken advantage of. I understand that the majority of those served in CBE do not recognize danger. If the position is eliminated, I’m concerned over the potential loss of long term care services that she needs such as Medicaid, Job Coaching and staff counseling. Losing this opportunity would deprive her of the sense of mastery and accomplishment she enjoys so much as well as a sense of inclusion and connectedness. She feels like she’s normal and part of her community thru this work program. Please don’t eliminate this benefit from her life and so many others’.	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 88	Family Member	I am the sister and co-guardian (along with my mother [NAME]) of my brother [NAME]. I am writing to you about the possible upcoming changes with AHCCCS and Center Based Employment. [NAME], is currently employed by STARS. Through his ISP’s it has been determined that he is not capable of working in the community. [NAME], 60 years of age, has been in an educational or work program his entire adult	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.

		<p>life. We are totally supportive of his progress and his enthusiasm to go to work every day. Because if his brain injury at birth, [NAME] needs 24 hour supervision. His acceptance into a work center has boosted his morale by receiving a small paycheck every two weeks. The praise and applause he receives from the dedicated staff at STARS is invaluable. We view this staff as his “lifeline” and are eternally grateful. A small paycheck, through piecework, does wonders for his development and good habits. The paycheck is his reward. [NAME], is very happy and has a tremendous will to work, desire to feel achievement, to be appreciated and loved. We are grateful for the gentle, mature man he has become and the staff that is full of encouragement. We are asking you to please leave options available for us in the future. If a DTA were our only option, [NAME] would digress. Center Based Employment is perfect for [NAME], as I’m sure it is for thousand of others.</p>	
Email 89	Family Member	<p>I am a concerned Mother of a 34 yr. old female with Down Syndrome. I understand funding may be eliminated for her center-based paid work activity at Marc East. [NAME] loves her job, waking herself each morning after she has laid her clothes out the night before. She has a speech disability, which makes most people not understand her. [NAME], trusts everyone, which makes her ineligible for a job in the community. She would easily be taken advantage of. [NAME] is right where she needs to be in terms of employment. The staff are extremely trustworthy at the Marc Center, where [NAME], has been employed since her graduation from Highland High in Gilbert, Az. The work [NAME], pursues at Marc East gives her a HUGE sense of accomplishment. She sings when she comes home from work. Work is extremely important for [NAME]. She will complain when we need to go to a Dr. appt. for her. She slowly will become agitated if she thinks she is being away from work for too long because of a dr. appt./fasting labs. [NAME will not be hired for community employment if Marc Center is eliminated. She is not understandable/safety risk. [NAME] has no idea she is not a fully functioning worker in the community where she lives. We congratulate her \$20.00 paycheck every 2 weeks as if it were \$600.00. She tells her Brother [NAME] and myself to use her money to buy ice cream from McDonalds. [NAME] loves her job at Marc East as much as we do. Marc East keeps her emotionally balanced. We don't know what we'll do if there is no Marc East. Thank you for your time and understanding. I am shocked the State of Arizona would even consider eliminating paid work activities at Marc East.</p>	<p>Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>
Email 90	Member	<p>It came to our attention recently that some wish to discontinue Centered Based Employment. We find it TOTALLY RIDICULOUS AND REPREHENSIBLE!! How could individuals feel the need to do away with something that means so much to people in the Special needs community? Jobs means a lot to us and WE WANT OUR VOICES HEARD!!!!!! DON'T LET'S US DOWN!!!!!!!!!!!!!! If CBE is taken away from us the happiness of so many will be on your head.....Don't be another Veterans administration!!!!!!!!!!</p>	<p>Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>
Email 91	Family Member	<p>We are the proud parents of a 26 year old son with Autism, mental disabilities, and OCD. He is unable to cross the street safely by himself, he does not recognize danger of any</p>	<p>Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of</p>

		<p>kind, he has tantrums, and he gets distracted very easy. Due to his disabilities, he is unable to find work within the “normal community” workplace. When we found out that he could work at the MARC Center, we were delighted that he could find joy, appreciation, and satisfaction in the workplace. This is the perfect place for him. It allows him to work and receive a little bit of “his” money. When he is working at the MARC Center, he is in a safe environment, and we don’t have to worry about him doing something dangerous or injurious to him. He gets SO excited when he gets his paycheck. It is usually in the \$5-10.00 range, and all he realizes is that he earned this money and he just beams with excitement. A few days ago while shopping, our son was extremely excited to see some of the first aid kits that he assembles on the shelf of the store. We are FURIOUS that you are even considering stopping such a wonderful program. This is the only program where these special needs adults can get out of the house (instead of watching TV all day or playing video games) and make something of their lives. There isn’t any other employment option available to them as they are not employable by “normal” standards. They don’t need a more restrictive day program, they need this work program so that they can feel that they are a productive member of society, and for their own personal achievements. Those with special needs have feelings and needs, too, and they are NO less important than yours or mine.</p>	<p>AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>
Email 92	Family Member	<p>I see that the Assessment and Transition Plan talks about transitioning from a Center Based Employment (CBE) to a Facility-Based pre-employment Center. What is the difference?? I am concerned because although my daughter is a great worker, she is vulnerable, and employers do not want to be a baby sitter. With CBE and GSE (Group-Supported Employment) there is someone there that watches out for her. She is very limited verbally and needs that extra supervision should issues arise. The plan talks about transitioning from CBE to a Facility Based Pre-employment Service, does this mean there will be no STARS? I have found STARS to be invaluable in teaching employment skills. One more concern I have, in the move to a Community Based Employment, is it required that participants receive minimum wage? <i>[Exerpt of email submission]</i></p>	<p>Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>
Email 93	Family Member	<p>I have read a good portion of the draft and am very concerned with the assessment and transition plan. What exactly is the facility-based pre-employment service? I believe that my son is receiving an employment service at the center-based facility (STARS). There is no time frame indicated for the transition. Will my son be forced to transition out of STARS to an undefined facility, will he lose his paycheck and his social network? How will AHCCCS encourage companies to hire individuals like my son or will they be passed out of the facility-based pre-employment service with no job, only to sit at home? Another portion of the draft deals with volunteering in the community. This would be a great option, but only as an extra optional experience. My son already volunteers with his peers at STARS and enjoys this part of his work day, but would not be happy to lose his actual work and paycheck. In going forward with the work on this plan, I sincerely hope that AHCCCS will look at all options and ensure that they remain open and available. <i>[Exerpt of email submission]</i></p>	<p>Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>

Email 94	Family Member	<p>I am writing in regards to proposed changes to restrict or eliminate center-based employment. My brother currently participates in a center-based employment program with MARC. He is 50 years old and is developmentally disabled. He is almost completely deaf, has limited verbal skills, is mentally handicapped and has behavioral issues. He attempted community employment in the past, but was fired. Center based employment is the only option for him. Working in the community is not a viable option as he requires supervision and direction in his duties. Working in the community poses safety issues as he is trusting and won't understand or recognize if someone is trying to take advantage of him or is a threat. At MARC he has supervisors trained in dealing with individuals with disabilities and who look after his well-being. At MARC I don't have to worry about his safety and I can rely on the continuity of employment. My parents are retired and my dad is 80 years old. After they are gone, my brother will be my responsibility. I want to do whatever I can to ensure that he is happy, healthy, cared for and it able to live his life to the fullest extent possible. Please do not eliminate the only job he has available in a safe and caring environment.</p>	<p>Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>
Email 104	Family Member	<p>My son is a resident in the MARC system, and works in the East Valley work shop which is the best option for him. He is not a candidate for community employment as he requires much closer supervision than what a main stream employer can possibly provide. We have tried community placement through Marc in the past, however, even with the supervision of the Marc employees, he was not able to stay on the tasks required of him. At one time he was able to cash his check, and go to a nearby fast food restaurant and spend it all on lunch. His speech is not clear, he has limited reading abilities, and is not good at decision making, so he would not be employable in any other community employment. However, he is intelligent enough to know that he is working a job and being productive. My son has always wanted to have a job since he was a small child. The sheltered environment provided in the Marc work shop gives him the opportunity to feel productive as well as having socialization with other co-workers. At one point, he was going to the "day program" one day a week which lasted for a couple months. Within that time, his speech regressed even further and his productivity in the workshop did not increase. If the Marc workshops were to close, there are no other viable options for my son and many other individuals in his situation. They are all people and deserve to feel like productive citizens.</p>	<p>Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>
Email 107	Family Member	<p>My 22-year-old adult daughter has autism, cognitive impairment, and non-verbal language delay. Because of behaviors consistent with her autism and developmental delays, [NAME] has limitations that often make it difficult for her to be successfully employed in the general community. As a result, her employment at and through the Hozhoni Foundation has been crucial to both her self-worth and the development of more appropriate job-based skills and behaviors. As [NAME] parent, guardian, and advocate, I am quite concerned that this assessment and transition plan will create changes in employment opportunities for her that will not serve her best interests or even allow her to continue working. It is unclear to me if possible changes implemented will mean that there will no longer be options for center-based employment. My daughter, who is not</p>	<p>Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>

		<p>always able to be or work in general public settings, thrives when working and I am worried that center-based employment may no longer be available to her. As well, what exactly is meant by a "facility-based pre-employment service" and how will this affect my daughter's ability to work? Will she continue to earn a paycheck (something that has become very important to her)? Up until a few years ago and due to some very challenging behaviors, I was unsure that my daughter would ever be able to work consistently or earn a paycheck. However, Hozhoni has worked diligently to provide my daughter with the best possible employment opportunities that best fit her strengths and needs; I would hate to see the supports they've provided and all of the progress Erin has made be for naught. I certainly hope that AHCCCS will ensure that all employment options remain available to individuals like my daughter.</p>	
Email 111	Family Member	<p>I am the parent and legal guardian of a 28 year old man with physical and cognitive disabilities. My son currently lives at home and works during the day at a center-based employment (CBE) program. He is an ALTCS member. I was very recently informed that AHCCCS is considering restricting or eliminating CBE programs. I hope this isn't true! Because of behavioral issues, CBE is the right placement for my son at this time. Someday he may be able to transition to community employment, but that would only be because of the training and support that he currently receives at his CBE program. If CBE were restricted/eliminated, my only option would be to place my son in a more restrictive DTA environment, which would most likely cause his behavior to regress. This happened in the past, when his previous CBE program lost work contracts during the recession. Without the routine of work tasks, my son's behavior deteriorated. In addition, the paycheck that he receives is a tangible reward that he looks forward to and plans activities around. CMS has specified that service planning for participants in Medicaid HCBS programs must be developed through a person-centered planning process that reflects individual preferences and goals. CBE is a very important part of the continuum of services that will make true person-centered planning possible. Our disabled population will benefit from more options, NOT less!</p>	<p>Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>
Email 113	Undisclosed	<p>I am opposed to the AHCCCS interpretation of the new statute which recommends that center based employment centers become pre-employment services. The rule states that participants must have the opportunity to seek employment and work in competitive integrated settings. The goal to integrate participants into typical work settings is well intentioned but participants will already work in a competitive integrated setting, especially as non-disabled citizens will now be allowed access to the CBE under the new law. The inclusion of employment opportunity workshops in which interested parties may choose to be presented with additional employment opportunities would bring CBE into compliance as willing members will also be able to seek employment.</p>	<p>Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>
Email 114	Family Member	<p>Changes that restrict or eliminate CBE (Center-Based Employment) will directly affect my family. My sister is an adult with Down's Syndrome and has been working at the MARC Center for many years. My sister would no be able to work in the community otherwise. I believe her work there is the single most significant factor in her life that has contributed to her self esteem. She is so proud every week to get a paycheck with</p>	<p>Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>

		her name on it. It means so much to her to go to a place every day where she gets social and professional stimulation. It gives her life meaning and purpose. Please don't take that away from her!	
Email 115	Family Member	I was most upset to get the notice that the State is considering the elimination of paid work activities. This would be the worst thing that could happen to our children, relatives and others who have disabilities. My daughter was in the STARS (Scottsdale Training and Rehabilitation Services) program for more than 8 years and has now been with Arizona Foundation for the Handicapped (Perry Center) for almost two years. My daughter has learning disabilities due to meningitis when 5 months old, and also has epileptic seizures as well as PNES -- psychogenic non-epileptic seizures (which started about 10 years ago). Because of the PNES, she was fired from her job as a tore bagger and cannot get work in the general workplace. STARS was a life saver for us. Also at the Perry Center she has some added responsibilities and the pride in this work, the little money she makes have given her such confidence. I see this in most who are in these programs. To stop this would be disastrous. With my daughter's non-epileptic seizures, her caregiver has noticed that boredom seems to bring them on. She LOVES her job, keeping busy and the thought of not having a goal every day would be a tragedy. Please consider all the letters you have received supporting paid work activities very carefully. I am wondering how many people involved in this decision happen to have children or relatives with disabilities.	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 117	Family Member	I am writing this letter to protest the restriction and or elimination of CBEs funding. My son and ward [NAME], , has been a client at the Mesa Association for Retarded Citizens (MARC) Center work program for the last 5+ years. I am quite angry to hear that ACCCHS is threatening to pull or reduce funding for these CBEs! During his years at the MARC Center, [NAME] has participated in many different job opportunities- both in the community and on site at the center. He has cleaned Mesa city buses, stocked shelves at Bashas, worked as the center janitor, in the machine shop shrink wrapping products, and on the docks assisting in getting products ready for transport. The MARC Center gives my son a job to go to every day, and a pay check. He works hard, and whenever he gets upset, there are trained people there to assist him in calming down. He can accomplish something every day vocationally - and at the same time he is safe and the risk is low that he will have an outburst. He feels a sense of accomplishment and enjoys being a part of society. He really loves seeing products in the stores that he knows he helped wrap or make. My son is too high functioning to be in a day program. I have very real concerns though, about inclusion into "typical" job situations. If he did not have the extra paycheck from the Center, Matt would only get enough money from SSI to cover his room and board at the ADH (Adult Developmental Home). He's currently trying out Bashas Grocery store again through the MARC Center and is excelling in his abilities with the new staff member who is responsible for that group. He is proud of himself like he never was before. Please don't "mess with a good thing"!	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 120	Family Member	My son has been going there three years now and it has been eminence helped him. In some arias he does very well. In other arias because of his disability it take some time.	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of

		<p>The program has helped him in several ways.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) He looks forward to earning a paycheck, regardless of the amount. Just like those around him. 2) Helped him develop skills for employment in his future, Looking at other places that he might be able to work. Using what he has learned. 3) It has given him something to look forward to every day knowing he will be learning something new. 4) He has learned to ask for help when needed. Or more work when done with the present task. In a building that he is familiar with and has little change in the floor plane. 5) It has provided a stable work place with many ways to advance and add different skills. <p>Whatever my kids show a desire in I will help them to achieve their goal. I have shared this with you because I trust the Marc Center CBE. I know that at the Marc Center my children are safe, not taken advantage of, and have a good work environment. Surrounded by staff that looks out for them and helps them do their best. Doing this would devastate everything [NAME] worked for. He has come out of his shell, feels accepted and part of the team. He has pride that he is able to encourage his sister to work also. And that it is at another Marc Center has given him deep sense of pride. Even his looking ahead and thinking about some college classes. <i>[Excerpt of Email Submission]</i></p>	AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 121	Community Member	<p>I am a family friend of a 25 year old young man who works at the Marc's Center and it would be so devastating to this boy if this center was closed down. He loves his job and he needs the socialization that it gives him. This boy is non-verbal and very much depends on people to watch him. Although he is very smart he still needs supervision in a work setting. He will always give 100% at the Marc Center but for his own growth he needs the social atmosphere where it makes him feel liked and accomplished, plus the little bit of money he makes helps him to buy things he loves such as headphones and it also helps him with his money goals. There is no way he could ever work out in a public setting, because he is non verbal and needs to be directed on what he needs to be doing. The customers would never be able to communicate with him and therefore it would be frustrating for both him and the customer. His parents also have little means of transportation and for them to have to drive him around to various jobs would cause a huge hardship on his family. I am asking you to please not shut down the program at the Marc Center these special kids need to have a place to go where they are accepted and loved and feel very accomplished and proud of themselves.</p>	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 122	Community Member	<p>I am a family friend of a 25 year old young man who works at the Marc's Center and it would be so devastating to this boy if this center was closed down. He loves his job and he needs the socialization that it gives him. This boy is non-verbal and very much depends on people to watch him. Although he is very smart he still needs supervision in a work setting. He will always give 100% at the Marc Center but for his own growth he needs the social atmosphere where it makes him feel liked and accomplished, plus the</p>	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.

		<p>little bit of money he makes helps him to buy things he loves such as headphones and it also helps him with his money goals. There is no way he could ever work out in a public setting, because he is non verbal and needs to be directed on what he needs to be doing. The customers would never be able to communicate with him and therefore it would be frustrating for both him and the customer. His parents also have little means of transportation and for them to have to drive him around to various jobs would cause a huge hardship on his family. I am asking you to please not shut down the program at the Marc Center these special kids need to have a place to go where they are accepted and loved and feel very accomplished and proud of themselves.</p>	
Email 123	Community Member	<p>I am a family friend of a 25 year old young man who works at the Marc's Center and it would be so devastating to this boy if this center was closed down. He loves his job and he needs the socialization that it gives him. This boy is non-verbal and very much depends on people to watch him. Although he is very smart he still needs supervision in a work setting. He will always give 100% at the Marc Center but for his own growth he needs the social atmosphere where it makes him feel liked and accomplished, plus the little bit of money he makes helps him to buy things he loves such as headphones and it also helps him with his money goals. There is no way he could ever work out in a public setting, because he is non verbal and needs to be directed on what he needs to be doing. The customers would never be able to communicate with him and therefore it would be frustrating for both him and the customer. His parents also have little means of transportation and for them to have to drive him around to various jobs would cause a huge hardship on his family. I am asking you to please not shut down the program at the Marc Center these special kids need to have a place to go where they are accepted and loved and feel very accomplished and proud of themselves.</p>	<p>Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>
Email 124	Community Member	<p>I am a family friend of a 25 year old young man who works at the Marc's Center and it would be so devastating to this boy if this center was closed down. He loves his job and he needs the socialization that it gives him. This boy is non-verbal and very much depends on people to watch him. Although he is very smart he still needs supervision in a work setting. He will always give 100% at the Marc Center but for his own growth he needs the social atmosphere where it makes him feel liked and accomplished, plus the little bit of money he makes helps him to buy things he loves such as headphones and it also helps him with his money goals. There is no way he could ever work out in a public setting, because he is non verbal and needs to be directed on what he needs to be doing. The customers would never be able to communicate with him and therefore it would be frustrating for both him and the customer. His parents also have little means of transportation and for them to have to drive him around to various jobs would cause a huge hardship on his family. I am asking you to please not shut down the program at the Marc Center these special kids need to have a place to go where they are accepted and loved and feel very accomplished and proud of themselves.</p>	<p>Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>
Email 125	Community Member	<p>I am a family friend of a 25 year old young man who works at the Marc's Center and it would be so devastating to this boy if this center was closed down. He loves his job and he needs the socialization that it gives him. This boy is non-verbal and very much</p>	<p>Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS</p>

		<p>depends on people to watch him. Although he is very smart he still needs supervision in a work setting. He will always give 100% at the Marc Center but for his own growth he needs the social atmosphere where it makes him feel liked and accomplished, plus the little bit of money he makes helps him to buy things he loves such as headphones and it also helps him with his money goals. There is no way he could ever work out in a public setting, because he is non verbal and needs to be directed on what he needs to be doing. The customers would never be able to communicate with him and therefore it would be frustrating for both him and the customer. His parents also have little means of transportation and for them to have to drive him around to various jobs would cause a huge hardship on his family. I am asking you to please not shut down the program at the Marc Center these special kids need to have a place to go where they are accepted and loved and feel very accomplished and proud of themselves.</p>	<p>has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>
Email 126	Family Member	<p>My son has been working at Marc center for several years. Previously, he had been placed in community employment on several occasions. He did not do well. Even with a job coach available, he was judged for not being fast enough, not talking to customers, not staying on the project. It turned out that working out in the community made him so nervous he was not able to complete duties or there were too many duties for him to concentrate on the job. When he went to Marc all that changed. Marc has worked with him through illnesses, taught him work manners, and encouraged good work and a sense of achievement. He definitely feels like he is in a friendly environment and strives to do his best every day. This would not happen in a community based situation. My son takes pride in the fact that he can work and earn a paycheck. This is what being an adult means to him. Losing CBE would be detrimental to my son. He is now in a work environment that strives to boost his self-worth. My son is high functioning enough to know that he is not like most people and that his handicap prevents him from doing many things, so the value of working at Marc center cannot be put into dollars, it is in achievement and accomplishment. I sincerely ask again that this program and others like be allowed to continue to help all individuals who need it and my son.</p>	<p>Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>
Email 127	Family Member	<p>I have a Special Needs daughter who is a perfect fit for the program she has been enrolled in at MARC for years. As a parent and guardian who has spent countless years navigating the shallow & obscure waters of funding for my daughter, I am outraged that a challenge to Lisa's growth & well-being is being proposed. The loss of center-based employment would significantly hamper my daughter's well-being & cause her great anxiety. She is currently very proud of her productivity, her pay-check, & the skills she continues to learn thru her workshop daily experience. My daughter is not equipped, and never shall be, to engage in any form of community employment, due to her various physical challenges On the other hand, she is too active & alert & capable of learning & being a productive member of her society to be relegated to a more restrictive day program. I cannot state too strongly how cutting any center-based paid work activities would diminished the quality of life for my daughter & all of her friends. For those of us who have so very few resources available to our loved family members with disabilities I entreat you not to make a political or financial statement by cutting aid to these</p>	<p>Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>

		participants and their family members. We really don't have any other options open to us. Please be compassionate & thoughtful when considering this urgent matter.	
Email 128	Family Member	As a parent of a disabled adult and the the grandmother of a disabled child I can see no reason for the closure of any of these programs, they mean so much to my daughter and granddaughter. They have learned so many useful things such as self worth,accomplishment.especially when they see one of their own products they have worked on in the stores,of which there are many products.Pride in being able to go to work and earn there own money and accomplish there self worth, being a part of the community. These programs are vital to their health and welfare. The disabled people are always the first to be let go and the last hired and never given competitive wages,and are taken advantage of because of their disabilities.Losing these programs would be a devastating loss for my daughter because there are no other programs for her and her piers,leaving them no opportunities to better themselves.	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 129	Undisclosed	Please continue to fund (fund) CBE for our Down's Syndrome friends	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 130	Family Member	This message is intended to serve as a protest to the proposed cuts that AHCCCS is considering making to Center Based Employment (CBE) for the developmentally disabled. I am utterly dismayed that such budget cuts are being considered to such a vulnerable population group who rely on the state of Arizona to protect their welfare and well-being as citizens of this state. I have a family member who is participating in paid work activities at AFH, and the elimination of this program would have a devastating impact on her emotional well-being. The sense of purpose and value that this program provides on a daily basis cannot be replaced for the individuals who struggle to overcome so many life challenges every single day of their lives. These individuals deserve the opportunity to be productive and contributing members of the work force in an environment that is safe, secure and supportive of their emotional and physical special needs with trained staff in attendance. There is no acceptable substitute for this program and I strongly urge reconsideration of any proposed cuts to any services at any time for the developmentally disabled.	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 131	Family Member	I am a family member of a 25 year old young man who works at the Marc Center, and it would be so devastating to this boy if this center was closed down. He loves his job and he needs the socialization that it gives him. This boy is non-verbal and very much depends on people to watch him. Although he is very smart, he still needs supervision in a work setting. He will always give 100% at the Marc Center, but for his own growth he needs the social atmosphere that makes him feel liked and accomplished, plus the little bit of money he makes helps him to buy things he loves such as headphones. It also helps him with his habilitation money goals. There is no way he could ever work out in a public setting, because he is non verbal and needs to be directed on what he needs to be doing. The customers would never be able to communicate with him, and therefore it would be frustrating for both him and the customer. His parents also have little means of	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.

		transportation, and for them to have to drive him around to various jobs would cause a huge hardship his immediate and extended family. I am asking you to please not shut down the program at the Marc Center. These special kids need to have a place to go where they are accepted and loved, and are able to feel accomplished and proud of themselves.	
Email 133	Family Member	I am the sister of the women who sent you the email below (Email 44). I could not state it any better - I agree with everything said. The program has been a huge help for my sister and I hope it will continue throughout her life.	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg.210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 134	Community Member	I am a family friend of a 25 year old young man who works at the Marc’s Center and it would be so devastating to this boy if this center was closed down. He loves his job and he needs the socialization that it gives him. This boy is non-verbal and very much depends on people to watch him. Although he is very smart he still needs supervision in a work setting. He will always give 100% at the Marc Center but for his own growth he needs the social atmosphere where it makes him feel liked and accomplished, plus the little bit of money he makes helps him to buy things he loves such as headphones and it also helps him with his money goals. There is no way he could ever work out in a public setting, because he is non verbal and needs to be directed on what he needs to be doing. The customers would never be able to communicate with him and therefore it would be frustrating for both him and the customer. His parents also have little means of transportation and for them to have to drive him around to various jobs would cause a huge hardship on his family. I am asking you to please not shut down the program at the Marc Center these special kids need to have a place to go where they are accepted and loved and feel very accomplished and proud of themselves.	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 135	Family Member	I have a Special Needs daughter who is a perfect fit for the program she has been enrolled in at MARC for years. As a parent and guardian who has spent countless years navigating the shallow & obscure waters of funding for my daughter, I am outraged that a challenge to [NAME] growth & well-being is being proposed. The loss of center-based employment would significantly hamper my daughter's well-being & cause her great anxiety. She is currently very proud of her productivity, her pay-check, & the skills she continues to learn thru her workshop daily experience. My daughter is not equipped, and never shall be, to engage in any form of community employment, due to her various physical challenges On the other hand, she is too active & alert & capable of learning & being a productive member of her society to be relegated to a more restrictive day program. I cannot state too strongly how cutting any center-based paid work activities would diminished the quality of life for my daughter & all of her friends. For those of us who have so very few resources available to our loved family members with disabilities I entreat you not to make a political or financial statement by cutting aid to these participants and their family members. We really don't have any other options open to us. Please be compassionate & thoughtful when considering this urgent matter.	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 136	Community Member	Having the option to stay within a center-based environment versus the goal of transitioning should always be considered. Many clients will be able to make the	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of

		transition but for those that need a quiet, highly supervised environment that option should stand. The decision always relates to the needs of the client. Some clients will always need one on one support to function. That would require adding aids, support staff to supervise clients within an integrated setting. Even with that support the client may not be able to function due to sensory issues, safety issues, cognitive abilities and social skills. It is always appropriate to account for the needs of the client and allow for an option (center based versus integrative) that works best for the client. When we limit those opportunities it is not to the advantage of the client or their families.	AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 137	Family Member	I am glad that access is keeping center based work. I don't know if my daughter will be able to work in the community hopefully she will. I think it should be individualized to the person with the disability as to how long or what program they need. I never like caps it is discriminatory. The goal should always be community work but I don't think a time limit should be placed on an individual's success.	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 138	Family Member	My 24 year old son [NAME] has Autism, as well as borderline cognitive abilities. He is significant executive function dysfunction that can be mediated by medication, but is unable to be fully controlled by it. He further has significant sensory issues that cause him high levels of anxiety and impulsivity, poor memory and judgement; he is easily distracted and tends to require prompting and direction, even when in established routines. He recently received the services of an Occupational Therapist, who is assisting him in lowering his anxiety level and develop better core strength, among many other things. He has worked at a center based employment program for about 4 years. A couple of years ago, I had him evaluated by Vocational Rehabilitation. They let me know that he was no where near ready to begin looking at competitive employment. He is at a point where his program has been able to take my son and another client to do some work, with a job coach, 3 hours a week, at a local IHop. He is very proud of this job! At times, he will want me to take him out to eat - at IHop, where he can greet and be greeted by his colleagues there. It is my hope that he will be able to continue to work for longer periods, and perhaps with less supervision at some point in the future. My know that funding is always an issue, with any service organization, especially when working with vulnerable and/or high maintenance clients. I would respectfully request that the state of Arizona make every attempt to fully fund programs for our disabled children, youth and adults. Additionally, I understand that the program revisions include considering capping the number of years that a disabled adult can work in a sheltered environment. I would sincerely hope that this would not be implemented. Allowing disabled adults perform work at whatever level they are able gives them a sense of pride and a feeling that they are participating in life, in a "normal" way. It enhances their self-esteem and their determination to live actively, rather than passively being cared for and deteriorating physically and mentally. There are many disabled adults who will never be able to participate in more competitive environments. Yet, they should be encouraged to move as far as they can in learning work skills and abilities; rather than placed in a day care program, to languish. By capping the number of years a disabled adult can be in a sheltered work environment, the state would be punishing the disabled adult. The intent	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.

		might be to encourage the work programs to "move the adults" through the levels of work toward competitive employment. I do support accountability for the programs that work with our most vulnerable citizens. But if you look at each client individually, there are some who will move very, very slowly up these levels. Some will never be able to progress beyond certain sheltered/assisted levels. Do not let the State of Arizona support a culture where people with disabilities are dehumanized and pushed into the darkness, because they cannot compete with their nondisabled peers. We have come too far to go backward.	
Email 141	Family Member	The same issue applies to sheltered workshops around the country that provide a place for individuals who have "capped" in their ability to perform work at a certain level. These people have purpose in their daily lives by having a place to go and feel productive. To assume that they will be able to set a goal to increase their skills to the level of a "typical" employee and move out of the sheltered workshop into a regular job is unrealistic for some of them. Of course, we encourage those who are able to always strive for greater independence!	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Email 147	Family Member	My son is 34, on the autism spectrum (Fragile X Syndrome) and receives services from YEI in Prescott. He is currently participating in facility-based employment in the morning, and in the afternoon he is involved in the social activities program, which is extremely important for him, considering his problems in that area. He has a daily routine, and is ready and willing to go to YEI every morning, even after long (1 month) vacations. He earns a small paycheck, which we would like to keep small so he can keep getting Social Security. We feel this is the best situation for our son. While he works very well within the confines of the facility, we feel that community-based employment would be stressful for him and lead to unwanted behaviors. Having moved from Maryland almost 4 years ago, from a situation that our son hated, YEI has proved to be the best possible program for him. He is thriving in this environment: language has improved, behaviors have improved and he is very happy.	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Letter 1	Undisclosed	Don't cut MARC Center jobs; cut yours!	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Letter 2	Family Member	My daughter has been a client at this facility for 32 years. It has grown from a small house on No. Wilber-Mesa to the great facility it is today. My daughter doesn't realize that she is different than anybody else. That is because she has a job and she has a paycheck just like her brother and sister. She doesn't care what the amount of the check is-because she has a check that is what is important to her. She has learned to get up on her own-pack her lunch and go to work-important to her to be "on time." She and all the rest of the clients are way too advanced to make a switch to a "day program." <i>[Excerpt of letter submission]</i>	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Letter 3	Member	I am an amnesiac. I cannot compete in a workplace where my competition "does drugs" after work. Tammy, my boss, doesn't need drugs or alcohol to keep control. Please save center-based employment (CBE) as a future part of the community. <i>[Excerpt of letter</i>	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS

		<i>submission]</i>	has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Letter 4	Family Member	I have three daughters-[NAME], [NAME], and [NAME] who are all mentally handicapped. Beacon Group has done an excellent job in helping all three of them. [NAME] works on jobs on site at Beacon and she is comfortable doing it. She would not be comfortable with a job off site. [NAME] has had a couple of jobs off site through Beacon and she does ok with it. [NAME] was working at jobs on site and she was comfortable with that. She would not be comfortable with a job off site. Beacon works with each client and helps them according to their individual needs. They have helped my daughters a lot. <i>[Excerpt of letter submission]</i>	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Letter 5	Family Member	I am disappointed and frustrated to think that this nurturing and safe environment for people like my cousin, [NAME], has the possibility of being eliminated. My cousin [NAME] is 43 years old and has Muscular Dystrophy and neurological disabilities from brain damage since birth. With his disabilities, he has never been able to hold gainful employment in competitive community work. However, our family is very proud that he has been working at Marc for about the last 18 months, which is the longest time in his adult life that he has been employed anywhere. Furthermore, Marc offers job coaching and life skills training, so there is an important continuity factor around the entire program Marc offers to disabled individuals. Conversing with [NAME], it is plain to see that he has gained confidence, skills, and a sense of achievement through his time working in the CBE program at Marc, and I hope that you will act to make sure the CBE program continues. I have heard that there are alternative options available for participants in the CBE program if it is discontinued, but I think it is important that you recognize that these alternatives aren't feasible for [NAME], or many others. First, I would consider a "day program" to be too restrictive for someone like [NAME] who wants to contribute to society. Moreover, he might not even qualify for something like that. Second, I would consider community employment to be too risky, as described above, he has not been able to maintain employment outside of Marc. Marc allows him to explore vocational options in a safe, low-risk environment where he won't be harmed physically or mentally, which can happen with people taking advantage of this naiveté and limited decision-making skills resulting from the brain damage. <i>[Excerpt of letter submission]</i>	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Letter 6	Family Member	My adult nephew, [NAME], has been working at the Marc Center in Mesa for over 18 months in the center-based employment program (CBE.) This is the only job he has been able to keep in his life, and he is over 40 years old! He has been disabled since birth. The work environment has been safe. Not only that, but [NAME] has learned new skills and what it means to be responsible. He has a sense of accomplishment that he was never able to achieve before. The CBE has been a real "life saver" for [NAME] ever since his mother passed away from cancer just four years ago. He is proud of being able to keep a job. He is happy to go to work at the Marc Center. It gets him out of the house and communicating with other people, both able-bodied and disabled. [NAME] could not maintain a job for non-disabled people, so the Marc Center CBE program is vital for him and for our family. <i>[Excerpt of letter submission]</i>	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.

Letter 7	Member	I cannot believe what the State is considering here. What's worse is the fact that you're letting AHCCCS make the determination. That's not very smart. I've never heard of AHCCCS doing anything good. In fact, AHCCCS has screwed its clientele at every opportunity that it gets and let's not even talk about CPS since AHCCCS got placed above that program. It's a joke! The MARC Center has helped more people in this state and it's been around a lot longer than AHCCCS. The programs offered by MARC Center give the recipient a feeling of worth. Now AHCCCS is going to attack the one entity that has helped more families and retarded and mentally ill than can be counted. Mesa's very own great history wouldn't exist if the MARC Center hadn't been there. Mesa needs to be ashamed for even considering this. The MARC Center has been responsible for a lot of positive praise for this state and this. AHCCCS... You're doing a great job of making a big mistake. You stooges need to follow the lead taken by the MARC Center years ago! They've employed more people and helped more people than AHCCCS and their team of bean counters ever will. <i>[Excerpt of letter submission]</i>	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Letter 8	Community Member	Closing the Marc Center is a big mistake, for the work of the handicaps young and old. Marc Center has done a wonderful job in my opinion. [NAME] started Marc Center years ago in her home for her son. And I helped her with the handicap kids. They are really a blessing and need a lot of attentions. <i>[Excerpt of letter submission]</i>	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Letter 9	Family Member	We need to keep the day Programs. These people need the work program to feel needed. The regular work will not hire them. The companys say there Ins will not cover them. My daughter has tried to work in the reg. work force, it did not work for her. She has been at the Marc Center for 28 years. Thank you. Keep the way it is now.	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Letter 10	Family Member	With reference to the Employment precipitation of my son [NAME] and many others. I want to thank you for your contributions of this extra ordinary program. He has developed priceless talents: self confidence for survival, sense of purpose, pride in production, genuine joy of going to work, excellent discipline, great cooperation and respect to supervisors, appropriate behavior in public, including restaurants, train rides, outstanding social skills. Work has been such a positive influence the loss would only be going backward. <i>[Excerpt of letter submission]</i>	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Letter 11	Family Member	We feel the Center Based Employment Program at the Marc Center is an essential vocational service for our daughter [NAME]. [NAME] has been in the CBE Program at the Marc Center for the past twenty years and never misses a day of work even when she has out-of-state family visiting. She has a very strong work ethic and enjoys the variety of jobs she tackles each week. We see how happy she is each day when she arrives home and tells us ow many boxes she put together, what she has put in them, or papers she has collated, etc. [NAME] loves earning a paycheck like her brothers and sisters and is all smiles when she proudly shows everyone her paycheck whether it be for \$7 or \$30. [NAME] should be heart-broken if she could no longer work as this is a huge part of her life and one that she looks forward to each day. [NAME] does not need a more restrictive day program. The CBE Program fits our daughter's capabilities and we know she is in a safe environment where she receives daily support. We know [NAME] would not be able to find employment in the community because of her disabilities, however,	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.

		we would consider vocational options that present no danger to her as our daughter does not recognize danger. <i>[Excerpt of letter submission]</i>	
Letter 12	Member	Pleas don't close the Marc Center we like working and seeing my friends and the staff to. I don't want to lose my respt Dan he a fun guy	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Letter 13	Family Member	Please don't close the Marc Center. This is the only place were my doughter can go to feel a scence of normalcy of a job. She can only work in a shelter work environment. If you close the center she will have to stay home ann watch tv everday.	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Letter 14	Family Member	Please do not change payments to MARC. They do such wonderful work with the clients and have a dedicated staff working very hard every day. They have tried him in grocery stores, but he cannot handle it. He is not able to work on the outside, and no one would hire him. This is the only chance he has for employment, please don't take it away, so he can continue going to work and feel like a productive human being. <i>[Excerpt of letter submission]</i>	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Letter 15	Family Member	My son has attended the MARC center for over 10 years. He has benefited greatly from this program. He has Down Syndrom, is very amiable and gets along with everyone, but stutters so badly that he doesn't talk hardly at all. This makes it impossible for him to work in a place such as Frys or Basha's, but he does great at the self contained workplace. It fills him with pride to have a job to go to daily and accomplish things there. He feels needed and a part of a good clean working community. Where can he find a better and more safe environment that has staff looking out for his safety, and well being. He is so kind, he has been taken advantage of with his money. There, they are able to monitor and make sure no one cons him out of his spending money. He feel that he can learn a job and master it well. He is included in the activities and feels he is more normal by bringing home a paycheck and being part of the community. He would absolutely be lost and lonely if he had no place to go during the day, with nothing to accomplish. What a boring life that would be. <i>[Excerpt of letter submission]</i>	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Letter 16	Family Member	Please Please do not do away with the all day program and employment program. There are too many people like my son who cannot function trying to work outside the workshops. They and he are in dire need of the workshops. <i>[Excerpt of letter submission]</i>	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Letter 17	Family Member	[NAME] will be 46 this year and has been at MARC Center for over 20 years. During that time he's tried several times to work out in the community but it just didn't work. Each time he has felt like it was his fault he failed, when in fact he just didn't have the skills required. At Marc Center [NAME] is one of their best workers and takes pride in the various jobs he is able to do. He is also very proud of the fact that because he is working and earning his own money he is able to buy things for himself and others. <i>[Excerpt of letter submission]</i>	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Letter 18	Family Member	[NAME] is 43 years old and has Muscular Dystrophy and neurological disabilities from	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment

		<p>brain damage since birth. With his disabilities, he has never been able to hold any kind of gainful employment in any competitive community work. He has been working at MARC for about 18 months now. It is the longest time in his adult life he has been employed anywhere. MARC allows him to explore vocational options in a safe low-risk environment where he won't be harmed physically or mentally (which can happen with people taking advantage of his naiveté and limited decision-making skills resulting from brain damage). And MARC offers job coaching and life skills as long term care as well so there is an important continuity factor around the entire program MARC offers disabled individuals. It is about getting a former "shut-in" out of the house three days a week; which he was not doing prior to joining the MARC center family. It is about him having a more positive self-esteem and pride in his appearance and in the work he is doing. It is about learning important social skills and interpersonal communications through interaction with peer workers and supervisors at MARC. MARC has given him a purpose to get up and out of bed in the morning, to shower and shave and get dressed, to make and pack his lunch and to arrange his Dial a Ride transportation every day since he cannot drive. This all gives him a feeling of normalcy and being a part of something important. <i>[Excerpt of letter submission]</i></p>	<p>Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>
Letter 19	Family Member	<p>[NAME] is 43 years old and has Muscular Dystrophy and neurological disabilities from brain damage since birth. With his disabilities, he has never been able to hold any kind of gainful employment in any competitive community work. He has been working at MARC for about 18 months now. It is the longest time in his adult life he has been employed anywhere. MARC allows him to explore vocational options in a safe low-risk environment where he won't be harmed physically or mentally (which can happen with people taking advantage of his naiveté and limited decision-making skills resulting from brain damage). And MARC offers job coaching and life skills as long term care as well so there is an important continuity factor around the entire program MARC offers disabled individuals. It is about getting a former "shut-in" out of the house three days a week; which he was not doing prior to joining the MARC center family. It is about him having a more positive self-esteem and pride in his appearance and in the work he is doing. It is about learning important social skills and interpersonal communications through interaction with peer workers and supervisors at MARC. MARC has given him a purpose to get up and out of bed in the morning, to shower and shave and get dressed, to make and pack his lunch and to arrange his Dial a Ride transportation every day since he cannot drive. This all gives him a feeling of normalcy and being a part of something important. <i>[Excerpt of letter submission]</i></p>	<p>Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>
Letter 20	Family Member	<p>My nephew [NAME] is 43 years old and has Muscular Dystrophy and neurological disabilities from brain damage since birth. With his disabilities, he has never been able to hold any kind of gainful employment in any competitive community work. He has been working at Marc for about 18 months now. It is the longest time in his adult life he has been employed anywhere. He does not need a restrictive "day program". He may not even qualify for something like that. Marc allows him to explore vocational options in a safe low-risk environment where he won't be harmed physically or mentally (which</p>	<p>Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>

		can happen with people taking advantage of his naiveté and limited decision-making skills resulting from brain damage). And Marc offers job coaching and life skills as well, so there is an important long-term effect around the entire program Marc offers disabled individuals. I have spent hundreds of hours over the past year and a half listening to him on the telephone and on Skype as he describes in detail what he did at the Marc Center, how much money he made that day, and some of the things he as learned in his classes. He also has a more positive self-esteem and pride in the work he is doing. <i>[Excerpt of letter submission]</i>	
Letter 21	Family Member	My nephew [NAME] is 43 years old and has Muscular Dystrophy and neurological disabilities from brain damage since birth. With his disabilities, he has never been able to hold any kind of gainful employment in any competitive community work. He has been working at Marc for about 18 months now. It is the longest time in his adult life he has been employed anywhere. He does not need a restrictive "day program". He may not even qualify for something like that. Marc allows him to explore vocational options in a safe low-risk environment where he won't be harmed physically or mentally (which can happen with people taking advantage of his naiveté and limited decision-making skills resulting from brain damage). And Marc offers job coaching and life skills as well, so there is an important long-term effect around the entire program Marc offers disabled individuals. I have spent hundreds of hours over the past year and a half listening to him on the telephone and on Skype as he describes in detail what he did at the Marc Center, how much money he made that day, and some of the things he as learned in his classes. He also has a more positive self-esteem and pride in the work he is doing. <i>[Excerpt of letter submission]</i>	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Letter 22	Member	We are very upset at the letter receive in the mail about you possibly closing the MARC CENTER DOWN. Marc is the only place in which I, [NAME], can work at. I need money coming in and have very little Social Security coming in. This is the only place I can work at because I have a disability that prevents me from working in a normal jobs which will not except my disability (seizure disorder). I need this job because I need money to pay for bills etc. If I was hired by some one other than Marc Center, because of my disability I would be the first to be fired and not have a job. There again I like I said before I can not work any where else. <i>[Excerpt of letter submission]</i>	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Letter 23	Family Member	The program has assisted my son for many years now. I've seen my son being so proud of the work he does every week day; how could this be happening? Taking this program from him would be devistating. He is unable to work in the community. His disability is getting worse as he ages. He needs Marc Center for his work program. <i>[Excerpt of letter submission]</i>	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Letter 24	Family Member	I'm advised by the MARC center about you planning to cut all day program and employment programs "leaving only private sector jobs" for all the mentally handicapped people of Arizona which leaves most of these persons without a job, without a sense of perpous, without a sense of acomplishment in thier lives. This is unexceptable!!! My brother [NAME] can't read or write, he has a lot of phobeia's, he doesn't understand stranger danger. He's been in this MARC Program for 27 yrs. now and he wouldn't ever	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.

		understand not being able to go to work everyday. Without this program he would be bored to death, very hostile and depressed!!! <i>[Excerpt of letter submission]</i>	
Letter 25	Family Member	[NAME] is 43 years old and has Muscular Dystrophy and neurological disabilities from brain damage since birth. With his disabilities, he has never been able to hold any kind of gainful employment in any competitive community work. He has been working at MARC for about 18 months now. It is the longest time in his adult life he has been employed anywhere. MARC allows him to explore vocational options in a safe low-risk environment where he won't be harmed physically or mentally (which can happen with people taking advantage of his naiveté and limited decision-making skills resulting from brain damage). And MARC offers job coaching and life skills as long term care as well so there is an important continuity factor around the entire program MARC offers disabled individuals. It is about getting a former "shut-in" out of the house three days a week; which he was not doing prior to joining the MARC center family. It is about him having a more positive self-esteem and pride in his appearance and in the work he is doing. It is about learning important social skills and interpersonal communications through interaction with peer workers and supervisors at MARC. MARC has given him a purpose to get up and out of bed in the morning, to shower and shave and get dressed, to make and pack his lunch and to arrange his Dial a Ride transportation every day since he cannot drive. This all gives him a feeling of normalcy and being a part of something important. <i>[Excerpt of letter submission]</i>	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Letter 26	Family Member	[NAME] is 43 years old and has Muscular Dystrophy and neurological disabilities from brain damage since birth. With his disabilities, he has never been able to hold any kind of gainful employment in any competitive community work. He has been working at MARC for about 18 months now. It is the longest time in his adult life he has been employed anywhere. MARC allows him to explore vocational options in a safe low-risk environment where he won't be harmed physically or mentally (which can happen with people taking advantage of his naiveté and limited decision-making skills resulting from brain damage). And MARC offers job coaching and life skills as long term care as well so there is an important continuity factor around the entire program MARC offers disabled individuals. It is about getting a former "shut-in" out of the house three days a week; which he was not doing prior to joining the MARC center family. It is about him having a more positive self-esteem and pride in his appearance and in the work he is doing. It is about learning important social skills and interpersonal communications through interaction with peer workers and supervisors at MARC. MARC has given him a purpose to get up and out of bed in the morning, to shower and shave and get dressed, to make and pack his lunch and to arrange his Dial a Ride transportation every day since he cannot drive. This all gives him a feeling of normalcy and being a part of something important. <i>[Excerpt of letter submission]</i>	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Letter 27	Family Member	[NAME] is 43 years old and has Muscular Dystrophy and neurological disabilities from brain damage since birth. With his disabilities, he has never been able to hold any kind of gainful employment in any competitive community work. He has been working at MARC for about 18 months now. It is the longest time in his adult life he has been	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.

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Letter 28	Family Member	[NAME] is 43 years old and has Muscular Dystrophy and neurological disabilities from brain damage since birth. With his disabilities, he has never been able to hold any kind of gainful employment in any competitive community work. He has been working at MARC for about 18 months now. It is the longest time in his adult life he has been employed anywhere. MARC allows him to explore vocational options in a safe low-risk environment where he won't be harmed physically or mentally (which can happen with people taking advantage of his naiveté and limited decision-making skills resulting from brain damage). And MARC offers job coaching and life skills as long term care as well so there is an important continuity factor around the entire program MARC offers disabled individuals. It is about getting a former "shut-in" out of the house three days a week; which he was not doing prior to joining the MARC center family. It is about him having a more positive self-esteem and pride in his appearance and in the work he is doing. It is about learning important social skills and interpersonal communications through interaction with peer workers and supervisors at MARC. MARC has given him a purpose to get up and out of bed in the morning, to shower and shave and get dressed, to make and pack his lunch and to arrange his Dial a Ride transportation every day since he cannot drive. This all gives him a feeling of normalcy and being a part of something important. <i>[Excerpt of letter submission]</i>	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Letter 29	Family Member	[NAME] is 43 years old and has Muscular Dystrophy and neurological disabilities from brain damage since birth. With his disabilities, he has never been able to hold any kind of gainful employment in any competitive community work. He has been working at MARC for about 18 months now. It is the longest time in his adult life he has been employed anywhere. MARC allows him to explore vocational options in a safe low-risk environment where he won't be harmed physically or mentally (which can happen with people taking advantage of his naiveté and limited decision-making skills resulting from brain damage). And MARC offers job coaching and life skills as long term care as well so there is an important continuity factor around the entire program MARC offers disabled individuals. It is about getting a former "shut-in" out of the house three days a	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.

		week; which he was not doing prior to joining the MARC center family. It is about him having a more positive self-esteem and pride in his appearance and in the work he is doing. It is about learning important social skills and interpersonal communications through interaction with peer workers and supervisors at MARC. MARC has given him a purpose to get up and out of bed in the morning, to shower and shave and get dressed, to make and pack his lunch and to arrange his Dial a Ride transportation every day since he cannot drive. This all gives him a feeling of normalcy and being a part of something important. <i>[Excerpt of letter submission]</i>	
Letter 30	Family Member	My brother [NAME] is 43 years old and has Muscular Dystrophy and neurological disabilities from brain damage since birth. With his disabilities, he has never been able to hold any kind of gainful employment in any competitive community work. He has been working at MARC for about 18 months now. It is the longest time in his adult life he has been employed anywhere. MARC allows him to explore vocational options in a safe low-risk environment where he won't be harmed physically or mentally (which can happen with people taking advantage of his naiveté and limited decision-making skills resulting from brain damage). And MARC offers job coaching and life skills as long term care as well so there is an important continuity factor around the entire program MARC offers disabled individuals. It is about getting a former "shut-in" out of the house three days a week; which he was not doing prior to joining the MARC center family. It is about him having a more positive self-esteem and pride in his appearance and in the work he is doing. It is about learning important social skills and interpersonal communications through interaction with peer workers and supervisors at MARC. MARC has given him a purpose to get up and out of bed in the morning, to shower and shave and get dressed, to make and pack his lunch and to arrange his Dial a Ride transportation every day since he cannot drive. This all gives him a feeling of normalcy and being a part of something important. <i>[Excerpt of letter submission]</i>	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Letter 31	Family Member	Enclosed is a letter my son wrote about the MARC Center, and what it means to him. As you can see, he is very upset about this. For most of his adult life he has been connected to work at the MARC Center. He worked for a short time at jobs outside the MARC Center, they didn't work out for him. The MARC Center is the best work environment for him. The MARC Center gives people with disabilities a chance to work and earn money on their own. If you close this down, there will be a lot of people with no way to earn an income. <i>[Excerpt of letter submission]</i>	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Letter 32	Member	Some worker can't get jobs some can't see and some can't hear some have other thing they can't do at all I love work at Marc-Center they are like one big proud place we have danes and if lose Marc-Center will lose work big job that they send to big store and help peolpe around Christmas Marc-Center dose a lot for big job day place do out and they do thing work place help store like bashas clean get cart and help bashas coworkers some need help with thing some need help other thing is would be sad and mad and not happy and very mad some need Marc-Center If you take it away where will all the worker work that can't get jobs and I will miss it so bad I love going there so will other you will take your life a way!!! No van ride and peolpe that ride in cabs no more stop this	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.

		<p>at one's how would like not much live on some need that money take life away like we are like trash put us away like we are nothing to you I'm proud to work for Marc-Center you are make a huge deal about jobs if you will stop this now I was at Marc Center for lot of year I work there I like better then real jobs you don't think you just take lot peolpe life gone and your hard work down and no more if I was home I'll will not be happy outside jobs I had job it was bad try not have a job or no work at all you are make us feel super mad this had to stop for good but do you care? I don't think so try live on less money see how would you like it it would be Mom grop home will be mad at you and Marc-Center be gone for good but we don't want gone live it alone now!!! I super love work for Marc Center this happen one year same thing and stop this right away we need Marc Center!!! Today's 08-13-15 this note is bad news for Marc-Center if you close us down you are good job down not up but lot of work will hate this be gone it would be (author drew unhappy face with tears) super sad Stop Stop this at ones we hate this note you put the best job in the world away that not far you try to find job in big world in AZ We need to stay not go never come back we need Marc-Center let stay for good not take us out and stop this now!!! I like help Bashas Marc-Center go to Marc Center go work is the best thing How would you like if take your job away for good you would not like at all we feel that to we need lot of Marc Center Hi my name [NAME] I need Marc Center the real job did not work for me and it won't work for other Marc-Center worker Don't close us and keep it open never take it away no more and stop right now!!! I feel like you don't like Marc-Center why pick on us you made lot poelpe mad today we unhappy with you.</p>	
Letter 35	Family Member	<p>Thank you for your response to my letter. I have to say I was pleasantly surprised. I was very glad to hear that center-based employment services shall remain available to our son [NAME] and many others. I can't begin to tell you how important Marc Center and the services they provide have meant to our family over the years. They are an outstanding organization and our community is very fortunate to have them.</p>	
Letter 36	Family Member	<p>The rules for employment are cruel-when will DD people get to be free-more rules for housing and programs means more staff when there are countless vacancies now-poor hourly rate and no pay for advancement-need adequate pay.</p>	<p>Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>
Letter 37	Provider	<p>It has been brought to my attention the new federal law is considering changes that will restrict or eliminate CBE (Center Based Employment) throughout the state. This is very concerning to me. I have been associated with this fabulous program for over a year and without it I would not be where I am today. I have participated in the paid activities at MARC Community Resources and I have had the opportunity to work with job developers that have encouraged me to go out in the community workforce. Working at the Resource Center has given me a chance to improve my work skills and a confidence in knowing that I am a valuable resource to the center. There are many people like myself that need and want a workplace where we feel we are an asset to the community. It gives us pride each day to have this sense of accomplishment. My self-esteem has been boosted in knowing that I have supervisors around me that encourage me for good.</p>	<p>Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.</p>

		I have tried several times previously to work in the community and have not been successful because of my needs. This is the first time I have ever felt good about myself in the workforce. <i>[Excerpt of letter submission]</i>	
Letter 38	Family Member	I was recently informed that you are considering not continuing to have paid Center Based Employment. My son [NAME] is 37 yrs. Old and has Autism. He has been attending MARC Center in Mesa. He is doing extremely well there. I like that he has a safe, clean and secure place to work in. And he is very happy to receive a pay check. It makes him feel that he can accomplish something for doing his work at the Center. As far as working in the community -- most companies will not hire a person iwth a disability. Unfortunately. People with Autism and other disabilities need a special environment to work in and be safe. They are not aware of "stranger danger" at all. My son once was approached after leaving a bank to cash his check and the guy just put his hand in my son's pocket and took the little bit of money he had. Then gave him back \$5.00 so he could at home. I do not want to see this repeated. <i>[Excerpt of letter submission]</i>	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Letter 39	Undisclosed	It is my prayer and deep desire that the Beacon Group employees be treated with mercy, and justice. <i>[Excerpt of letter submission]</i>	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Letter 40	Family Member	Instead, the lawmakers to make law for people needs, THIS FEDERAL LAW IS TARGETED AGAINST THE PEOPLE! What is poorer in this law is DIRECT NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE DISABLE PERSONS THEY NEED OUR ATTENTION, HELP and CARE AND MENTALLY STABILITY. OUR OPINION IS THAT AHCCCS NEEDS TO STOP ANY CONSIDERATION WHICH CAN LEAD TO DISTURB WORK AND LIFE OF DISABLE PEOPLE, and to work on their improvement to FIND THEIR PLACE UNDER THE GOD AND SUN! <i>[Excerpt of letter submission]</i>	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Letter 41	Member	Regarding the elimination of center-based employment in the future at Marc Community Resource Center on Country Club Drive in Mesa: This would be most unfortunate to disabled people such as myself. After traumatic brain injury and being diagnosed with PTSD and Bi-Polar Mania, I was no longer able to retain employment elsewhere, enduring much discrimination in the regular jobs. I withdrew, but after a case worker referred me to Marc, it was the beginning of my regaining a sense of self-worth. The staff there has been remarkable, coaching me, treating me with dignity, and I have no fear of discrimination there or being taken advantage of. I beg you, for the sake of others like me, please continue to fund these programs. It helps bring us back to wholeness. <i>[Excerpt of letter submission]</i>	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Letter 42	Family Member	My son is been working in this program for more than three years. And as a mother of a special ed. Son, I'm really tranquil that he work in this program, because is a safe and respectful enviroment. Where he learn to work and earn his own money. Since he is in this program his self-esteem when up notoriously, he is happy and ready to work everday. We had an experience before when he worked in a clothes store, they where	Please refer to "Public Comment" (pg. 31) and "Centered Based Employment Transition Plan" (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS' response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.

		making fun of him and the was not enough supervision. In one occasion he left the work place, he was missing for more than 2 hours. Those hours where the worse ones in my life. <i>[Excerpt of letter submission]</i>	
Letter 43	Family Member	I have a daughter that has been a participant of this program for just over a year and I cannot adequately explain what it has done for her and her life. Until this program was introduced to her by her AHCCCS provider, she was never able to hold down a job for more than a day or two. Having challenges that the community workforce was not willing to work with her to improve her skills, they quickly let her go. This is such a disservice to a willing and eager individual. Each time this would happen she became more disappointed in herself and her ability to perform. She was more than willing to work and gladly accepted the invitation to work only to be let down from the community. She has participated in the paid activities at MARC Community Resources since June 2014 and have been given many opportunities to excel. It has taught her work skills, social skills, time management, learning to work with others and so much more. This program offered job developers that were assigned to her to help her with the resume' process and interview process. <i>[Excerpt of letter submission]</i>	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Letter 44	Family Member	I understand that the PCP can protect individuals with health, safety issues and help assure that we have a continuum of services available. My daughter is a good artist and at 46 yrs old she has never needed the system. She has Down syndrome and is now regressing and has personality changes so she cannot function in the community any longer. In the past, for example, she was able to take the bus across town, and even change buses, to get home from the Mesa Community College where she takes computer classes. She has behavioral issues of wandering and getting lost. She can no longer take care of herself independently, like her laundry, without prompting, and cannot take care of her household. We are very grateful that there is a safe and appropriate sheltered work site at Marc Community Resources. We need to keep center based workshops available for those in the who cannot be safe in community jobs or volunteer placements. <i>[Excerpt of letter submission]</i>	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Letter 45	Family Member	I am very upset that you would consider closing the workshop. I like the staff and my co-workers. I like most of the jobs and I get opportunities to learn new skills like answering phones. I have tried working in the community but it became very stressful and I was not happy. I like the workshop better. I am not as stressed there. <i>[Excerpt of letter submission]</i>	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Letter 46	Member	I would like to write to you on a client's point of view I do go to bashas two times a week when close the CBE program you are closing opportunities for the clients that have that Opportunities to work for Bashas and to work In departments like Meat, Produce, deli and bakery so I am asking to NOT close us down and to keep it open for us so we can continue working.	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Letter 47	Member	We want the work shop to stay open and not close down. Where do you want us to work if the work shop closes? I like to work at shop and getting paid.	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.

Letter 48	Member	We currently work in a workshop and enjoy our jobs as well as being with our coworkers and staff. We were very upset to hear that our jobs may be taken away from us. We are asking you to not do this. We do not want to sit home all day and some of us can not be left alone in the community due to health issues or our lack of community safety skills and stranger/danger skills. We are unable to write or read, but asked a staff to write our feelings on this matter for us. Thank you for listening to our concerns. We love our work place and don't want you taking it away. <i>[Approximately 45 members signed the letter]</i>	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Letter 49	Family Member	[NAME] has attended four different independent work program for the disabled. He failed to find a job that fit him and his particular disabilities. [NAME] tests high enough to not be labeled "mentally disabled," yet the brain injury has limited many of his former abilities. Now he has found this wonderful group in Prescott, Az. [NAME] works with some hard-working, very caring supervisors at Yavapai Exceptional Industries. It has been fifteen years since [NAME] first entered the work program. He is happier now and loves the work plus receiving a paycheck. It boosts his feelings of worthiness and accomplishments for what he does five days a week all year long. He was hired fifteen years ago. It would be devastating to him if he no longer received a pay check for all his hard work. He experiences pride in his work, and he looks forward to being with his fellow workers and supervisors. The eagerness he exhibits @ five o'clock in the morning each day is heart-warming. Please help him to keep the choice of continuing to work right where he is. <i>[Excerpt of letter submission]</i>	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.
Letter 50	Family Member	As parents of a mentally challenged young adult who benefits greatly from her participation at MARC Center, we are appalled at the notice that we received stating that the facility may be closed. Our daughter has benifitted greatly from her years there. She has been a client since 9-04-1992. She has developed social skills, learned independence and terrific working skills. To deprive her of these benefits would greatly impact her ability to function in todays society. Marla is incapable of functioning in a workplace without direct supervision and her self esteem would suffer greatly without the MARC Center staff. Our reason for witing is to encourage you to reconsider your plans to discontinue CBE as this would prove disastrous to her well being. We will be watching for evidence of your findings and seriously hope that your decisions reflect the needs of those folks born with similar inflections. I pray that you don't have siblings who need the programs that MARC Center so graciously provides to function on a day to day basis. <i>[Excerpt of letter submission]</i>	Please refer to “Public Comment” (pg. 31) and “Centered Based Employment Transition Plan” (pg. 210) sections of the document for a full summary of AHCCCS’ response to public feedback on Center Based Employment. AHCCCS has modified the Center-Based Transition Plan based on public comment.

Group-Supported Employment Programs

Reference	Stakeholder	Question(s)/Comment(s)	AHCCCS Response
Topic: Assessment			
Email 80	Provider Organization (Arizona Association of	<i>Rule 4; Remediation Strategy #3 (page 204)</i> - What is envisioned in the requirement to “post” the rights and resources? Because the member is engaged in various activities throughout the day, there does not seem to be one location to “post” the rights and resources that would ensure the individuals see them and have access to the posting. In	Language of Remediation Strategy #3 - changed to “Incorporate a Service Requirement and Limitation in the Services Specification that requires the Program to follow guidelines for language competency and provide rights in a location that anyone can access at anytime.”

	Providers for People with Disabilities)	addition, this does not take into account individuals who cannot read and/or understand the material. This should be changed to “provide” the rights and resources to the member and also to their guardian, as appropriate. The rights and resources could be provided at each ISP evaluation in addition to giving them to the member the first time.	
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