

The path to the Medicaid Waiver has been a long one. We have been on it since summer 2013 and here we are today. Read more about how it all started [here](#).

**In case you wondered, here are the steps that we went through:**

1. Found an agency to help us facilitate the process and we were assigned a non-Medicaid service coordinator, since we had private insurance.
2. Completed Angel's psychological and psycho-social evaluations.
3. Attended a Front Door session, which the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) deems mandatory.
4. Completed a phone assessment with our Developmental Disability Regional Office (DDRO) Front Door Team Leader.
5. Submitted a packet of Angel's information to OPWDD to determine if he was eligible for services. (Weeks later we got a letter saying that he is eligible.)
6. Discussed what services we wanted with our non-MSD. I told her *school holiday respite* and *community habilitation (Comm Hab)*. After school respite was also mentioned but with Angel's current schedule, it was going to be too much. This process took the longest. We had to find a place that had space and that was willing to work with us until Medicaid was approved for Angel. Most agencies want you to already have Medicaid before you can apply. Yes, my head was spinning!!
7. Found a Comm Hab agency and was approved for 12 hours a week of service. The Comm Hab agency owner came to our home on two occasions to do an intake and meet Angel. (I am interested in self-directed services, so that is another process that I have to follow up on.)
8. Put in our application for Medicaid. (This application was too long and half the questions did not apply to Angel.)
9. Had our intake meeting for Angel to get school holiday respite.
10. When we got home from our intake, we met our Notice of Decision in the mail box. The Decision: Angel's Medicaid application was accepted. Perfect timing!
11. Now we wait to get his Medicaid card in one week.
12. While waiting, I will touch base with our agency to discuss when we will be assigned a MSD and when services will begin and the journey continues.