

DSS Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory Council (ASDAC)
Meeting Minutes
July 20, 2022
(Virtual Meeting)

Members Present: Jennifer Abbatemarco, Representative Catherine Abercrombie, Stephen Byers, Shelly Maynes representing Judy Dowd, Amy Dumont, Marcia Eckerd, Ann Gionet, Koleen Kerski, Bryan Klimkiewicz, Andrew Komarow, Jim Loomis, Kathy Marchione, Julie McKenna, Jimnahs Miller, Krista Ostaszewski, Donyale Pina, Yana Razumnaya, Lynn Ricci, Lois Rosenwald, Carole Ryan-Hanlon, Kari Sassu, Doriana Vicedomini, Julie Wolf

Members Absent: Melissa Gagne

Others: Jennifer Krom

Call to Order: 10:02am

Welcome and Roll Call

Approval of 5/18/2022 Meeting Minutes

No Public Comments

Beacon Health Options State Plan Update by Jennifer Krom

- Medicaid Funded Services for Individuals with an Autism Spectrum Diagnosis
- ASD Medicaid Open Authorizations as of 7/1/2022
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- ASD Medicaid Youth Monthly Admissions as of 7/1/2022 Report
- ASD Medicaid Youth Demographics as of 7/1/2022
- ASD Provider Enrollment as of 7/1/2022
- Beacon ASD Care Coordination & Peer Specialist Supports Activity
- Satisfaction survey mechanism in place to make sure needs are being met
- Regularly schedule monthly meetings in place

Discussion

- Discussion of collecting data and outcome data
- Challenge of building networks

- Gui Woolston, Medicaid Director specializes in data collection which will be helpful
- Legislature will meet with Gui Woolston and Representative Abercrombie will present updates to Council as she receives them

Discussion of Nomination for open position on the Council – Physician who treats or diagnoses person with ASD

- Resume discussion
- Discussion of nomination sub-committee
- Motion to convene a nomination sub-committee Jim, Lois, Lynn, Carole, Representative Abercrombie, Julie
- Calendar invite will be sent by Cass to schedule sub-committee meeting

Waiver Updates

- 166 on waiver
- 46 of the 50 slots have been added, 4 are in the process
- Filled one vacant Case Manager position
- Waiting for approval to fill 3 new Case Manager positions
- Nurse Consultant position to be added to assist with the waiver
- 1979 individuals on the waitlist
- Waiver renewal is moving forward
- Some changes will be added to the waiver
- Nutrition services to be added to the waiver
- Amending services to social skills, life skills and clinical behavioral supports to continue in a virtual setting as well as in-person
- Looking to amend qualifications for life skills coaching to remove the 4 year degree requirement which may help with the staffing shortages
- Representative Abercrombie would like to invite her colleague, who hopefully will be taking her position at the Legislature to the October meeting to introduce to the Council
- Discussion of individuals on the waiver underusing services and not using the cap of \$50,000 per individual
- Individuals on Waiver are only required to utilize one service per month
- Discussion of beginning a new waiver for those who may have fewer needs, possibly a tier system
- Shelly Maynes from OPM is working with Amy Dumont on the waiver renewal regarding budgeting to get more individuals on the waiver
- Staffing shortages discussed

- Krista from DDS shared the flexibility of the DDS waiver which is tiered based on the needs of the individual. She has had conversations with Amy Dumont regarding DDS' structure to review possible options
- Discussion of possibility of amendments to the waiver
- Employment opportunities discussed for individuals on the waiver/waitlist within DSS as many positions are opening up due to the large amount of retirees
- Recommendations were gathered and presented OPM but were not all able to make the budgetary cut due to funding

Housing Sub-Committee Discussion

- Jimnabs has been invited to attend an Innovative Services Workgroup
- Currently the focus is on the safety-net type of services for individuals that have needs beyond the daytime services they are receiving
- Housing needs have not come up for discussion yet
- Jimnabs has reached out to organizations to see what housing methods are out there for individuals with ASD
 - Buddy System Method
 - Cape Cod Village
- Importance of reviewing other models being used around the country and how they are funded
- Krista mentioned housing forums that are coming up.
- Yana mentioned Shared Living housing option used in the Nordic countries

New Business

- Suicide hotline has switched to a new number 988, they are looking for volunteers to work on hotline

To Do:

- Suggestions for September meeting
 - Beacon Health Options – standard agenda item
 - Waiver Update – standard agenda item
 - Waitlist conversation
 - Positions
 - Nominating Committee recommendation
 - Review of members' attendance on the ASDAC
 - Council should look at legislative changes/suggestions they would like for the next session
 - Data collection update

- Send proposals to Lisa, Cathy, Jimnahs or Yana for ASDAC agenda items
- Center of Excellence update, currently still with the Contract Dept.
- Krista to present on Remote Services

Adjournment: 12:00pm

Next Meeting: September 21, 2022