



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Elisa F. Velardo
Deputy Commissioner

DDS Day Services Transformation ARPA Committee
August 30th Meeting Minutes DRAFT

In Attendance: Keith Lavalette, Kathryn Dupree, Trever Rogers, Cynthia Delouise, Sean Bannon, Jennifer Keatley, Beth Katten, Robyn Hescocock, Sue Bastien, Alli Smale
Absence: Amber Burke, Varian Salters, Beth Fisher

Keith Lavalette, DDS Program Manager and Co-chair of the committee called the meeting to order at 2:35.

Introductions: Keith asked all members to introduce themselves, their affiliation and their interest in serving on this committee

Review of Rules of the meetings: Keith briefly explained the role of the committee and that all meetings are open to the public. He explained the rules that govern public meetings. Agendas and minutes will be posted. Only committee members can speak and asked to always identify themselves by name and role when speaking. Members of the public are welcome attend but can only listen to the proceedings.

What we hope to accomplish

- CMS has provided ARPA funding to states to address workforce issues, create workforce stability and to engage in transformational initiatives to provide more person centered support that recognizes individual choice, control and decision making.
- CMS using ARPA funds will increase the federal match by 10% thought March 2025 based on an acceptable state plan detailing its transformational activities
- The state must commit the same level of increased funding. CT has made this commitment though the biennium so funding is guaranteed through June 30, 2024.
- DDS must meet its timeline and may at times have to make decisions outside of the committee process. If this occurs, the decisions will be discussed at the following committee meeting
- The transformational plan addresses family support, residential and day services

Day Committee Goals

- Kathryn du Pree, Co-chair discussed the six goals for the committee
- Promoting various opportunities for day and employment services including the use of assistive technology
- Providing input on the DDS financial incentives to assist providers to promote movement from congregate day setting to ones offering greater employment
- Promoting participation in the creation of provider transformational plans
- Providing assistance to the department to develop educational forums to educate stakeholder

- Providing direction to the department regarding future options for group day placements to ensure greater individualization
- Providing advice to the department to address the needs of individuals for whom a new employment placement is unsuccessful

Review of Day and Employment Options

- Trevor Rodgers discussed the existing day service and employment options funded by DDS
- All committee members will receive an explanation of the services and acronyms

Discussion of Incentives

- Keith Lavalette discussed the DDS plan for incentives for providers to transition individuals from congregate settings to employment options
- DDS hopes to transition 200 individuals from these settings
- Incentives will be offered for each individual who transitions and will be available to the provider for 6 months
- The incentives will provide additional funding over the existing rate for the service type
- The Committee is expected to discuss the incentives in detail and to make recommendations to DDS to ensure successful implementation
- Keith will send the example of the incentives to all committee members
- Members shared concerns about the existing availability of hours for individuals in more individualized employment and day support services and the continuation of individuals in new programs after the incentive expires

Meeting Schedule

- Members agreed to meeting the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 2:30-4PM