



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Elisa F. Velardo
Deputy Commissioner

Minutes of September 12, 2022 - ARPA Individual and Family Engagement Transformational Committee

Location: Meeting held Virtually via Microsoft Teams

In attendance: Greg McMahon, Shannon Jacovino, Denise Palladino, Kevin Arce, Kimberly Butts, Maricruz Ortiz, Joanne Malise, Geri Kogut, Adrianna Ramirez, Jessica Sundell, Pat Tyler, Lena Esposito

Guests from Midstate Arc: Pam Fields, CEO, Kathryn Wood, Director of Community Integration, and Amy Rubin Mindell, Director of Community Outreach & Assistive Technology

Absent: Dr. Cheryl Ellis

1. Call to Order by Greg McMahon. Public Meeting Requirements were reviewed.
2. The process for selecting a communication vendor is still being completed. The vendor will work with the Individual and Family Engagement Transformational Committee and the DDS Engagement Committee. There is also a vendor who will work with providers on on transformation plans.
3. Assistive Technology/In Home Supports/Remote Supports/Cluster Supports/Electronic Face to Face Supports presentation given by Pam Fields, CEO and Kathryn Wood, Director of Community Integration from Midstate Arc. Power point presentation attached.
4. Questions/discussion after the presentation:
 - These supports are not agency specific, they are person specific. Everything is personalized to the needs of the individual
 - There are inconsistencies between DDS regions on approval for cameras and monitoring which are essential for independence. One of the reasons this has worked so well in the South Region is because Midstate has taken the reins, by opening the Technology Center, and being very proactive with the Human Rights Committee (HRC). There is no random access for staff. Families have had cameras throughout the entire apartment/house without HRC approval. Stark differences between regions must be addressed.
 - A massive mindset shift from caregiving to providing community supports is essential. This takes intention, time and lots of training for staff.
 - AT is funded through the waiver.
 - Staff can work with two individuals in the same apartment or in the same complex, based on need, but most code supports properly.

- No change in LON scores has been noted in these settings. People continue to need and receive the same level of support.
 - A lot of work has to be done up front giving individuals and families tours and lots of information. The process requires complete transparency and communication. People have share all of their needs for the assessment to work and for risks to be addressed.
 - Mistate Arc had not been able to find a way to safely support individuals who engage in risky behaviors such as taking off with someone they don't know. They feel also individuals who have a history of sexual predation must have 24 hour staff support.
 - There is technology that can monitor and track emotions to predict and provide intervention for explosive behavior.
 - It would be very helpful for individuals and families for agencies to collaborate and blend agency supports.
5. Greg will a draft of the provider incentives to the committee prior to our next meeting.
 6. Next Meeting: September 29, 2022 10:00am-11:30am