



State of Connecticut  
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont  
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff  
Commissioner

Elisa F. Velardo  
Deputy Commissioner

DRAFT Minutes of September 15, 2022 ARPA Residential Committee Meeting

Location: Meeting held Virtually via Microsoft Teams

In attendance: Peter Mason, Pam Fields, Lori Coughlin, Tammy Venenga, Heather LaTorra, Peter Engelbrecht, Brian Holmes, Mary Pat DeCarlo, Kathy Bobenski, Carly Bobenski

Introductions Peter Mason and Pam Fields Co- Chairs, called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm. Topic for Discussion

1. Meeting called to order at 1:03 p.m.
  2. Minutes of the August 25, 2022 meeting were presented and accepted
  3. Presentation on Remote Supports by Pam Fields, Executive Director of Midstate ARC. The team discussed a variety of topics regarding these supports including the issue of additional costs for providing remote supports (i.e. subscription costs and staff training). Peter Mason stated that these costs should be part of the individual's annual allocation.
  4. Discussion from Committee members on items identified by families or individuals that may interfere with moving to an alternative residential setting. Items discussed included parents fearful of moving away from 24 hours oversight support, technology failure, and risk tolerance. Additional topics included the importance of providing a clear and consistent message to families and DDS staff on this initiative, the critical importance of the team process, identifying the strengths and weaknesses of all the individuals part of the transformational plan, developing a transition period that meets the needs of the individual and the family and educating the individuals, families and DDS staff on the various supports. Discussed assistive technology and access to it through the Notice of Opportunities that will continue to be issued by the department.
  5. Discussion on Transformational Incentives for the congregate living settings – The committee discussed issuing the incentives on an interim basis to start the transformational process. Refinement of the incentives will continue. The committee approved the interim residential incentives. Discussed the need to provide supports to the full range of support needs, concerns regarding providers having the necessary staff available to implement this initiative, and having the process be flexible for the individual, family, and the provider. The committee requested a more detailed document that will explain the incentives, what types of the transitions will be eligible for the incentives,
  6. Moved to the next meeting the discussion on identifying system issues with transitioning from a congregate setting that may delay or prevent the department from achieving the established outcomes for this initiative. Pam Fields will disseminate to the committee members a list of issues that have been identified to date.
- Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.  
Next meeting date to be scheduled.  
Minutes submitted by Peter Mason.

