



State of Connecticut  
Department of Developmental Services

**DDS**

Ned Lamont  
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff  
Commissioner

Elisa F. Velardo  
Deputy Commissioner

**ARPA Day Committee Meeting  
September 11, 2023**

Present: Keith Lavalette, Trevor Rogers, Jennifer Keatley, Sean Bannon, Cynthia Delouise, Alli Smale

1. **Review of the Guidelines of Public Meetings-** Keith Lavalette
2. **Review of the 6/12/23 Meeting Minutes.** Motion to accept by Alli Smale and seconded by Jennifer Keatley. Minutes were approved.
3. **DDS-SELN Update by Trevor Rogers**
  - National Disability Employment Awareness month is in October
  - Incentives are provided for APSE and ACRE and customized employment training and was one of the SELN recommendation is available for up to \$3000 dollars
  - DDS has released a transportation survey to providers regarding transportation, goal is specific for individuals with disabilities to get more information about transportation in Connecticut.
  - Developing a one-time Incentive guide that has been rewritten and is a resource that explains each specific piece, the funding available and a FAQ section.
  - CT Customized Employment Certification Courses for FY 24 two session will begin this calendar year. The state will be accepting 22 provider staff members for each session.
  - DDS is developing its final report with a review of the final set of recommendations
4. **Updates on Transformational Initiatives**

Appendix K revisions were approved and it is retroactive to the Phase 1 providers and they are included to receive additional incentives. An outcome payment for day

providers for individuals who move from a congregate day setting to an employment setting.

Providers who have an approved plan will receive an incentive so depending on how large an agencies plan is they can get an incentive for 1,2, or 3 or more programs.

DDS has also incentivized a couple of outcomes so if you restructure a residential setting to support new individuals with specialized or complex medical or behavioral or clinical needs. If 4 individuals move out and 4 individuals with significant medical or behavioral needs move in there is an outcome payment for that in addition to the outcome payment for the individuals who moved out.

It is the same for day and your now going to support individuals with more complex need there is an outcome payment for that, and lastly if your looking to end a subminimum wage arrangement there is a outcome payment for that as well.

The National Core Indicator survey is a workforce survey that if its completed now agencies will receive an incentive of \$2500.

Staff who complete certain training is also incentivized for providers. If staff get accredited for supported employment or customized employment, they will get an outcome payment. Individuals completing training for assistive technology would also receive a payment.

100 DDS staff are participating in training for assistive technology at the University of California.

Deloitte has developed a number of recommendations and a number of action steps.

DDS has established owners of these action steps and a timeline for completion.

Gunnar Abrahamsson will be stepping in for Peter to complete the STEP process.

We are encouraging providers to attend technical assistance that Deloitte offers on a weekly basis and can also set up 1 to 1 assistance with them.

Rewarding work website is up and running, DDS and DSS will be doing an RFP and will encompass a website for employment networking for both DDS and DSS.

AT RFP for assessments given to both STAR and Oak Hill looking to start in January.

The AT conference was held and was sold out and very successful.

A case manager forum is being set up to ask questions and discuss different topics regarding STEP.

DDS is set to start releasing the STEP videos.

All the committee are to complete their work by December except the advisory committee will continue during the ARPA period.

5. **Future Meetings-** October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4PM and December 4<sup>th</sup> at 4PM

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