

Intellectual Disability Partnership Advisory Committee (IDPAC)
Meeting Minutes
10/25/18

Convened at 1:12pm.

Present: Barry Simon (Oak Hill), Commissioner Jordan Scheff (DDS), Scott McWilliams (DDS), Richard Sebastian (Kennedy Center), Adrienne Benjamin (parent), Collette Bement (parent), Marina Derman (parent), Win Evarts (parent), Deputy Commissioner Peter Mason (DDS), Katie Rock-Burns (DDS).

Absent: Judy Dowd (OPM), Andrea Barton-Reeves (Harc), Lauren Traceski (self-advocate), Kate McEvoy (DSS).

1. Review of Minutes – 9/20/18 meeting

Adrienne Benjamin moved to accept. Barry Simon seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Update on priority areas

Assistive Technology

Win Evarts shared that he had spoken with several entities regarding training on use and promotion of assistive technology to support individuals with intellectual disability. EastConn will only train people working for them. Midstate Arc and Oak Hill will both train anyone who enrolls. The fee schedules for membership and training vary between the two agencies. Both are structured to include an upfront membership fee, which then gives access to a lending library, as well as fees for training sessions.

Barry Simon suggested that the group may want to conceive of a different way to deliver the training to offer more efficiency and ability to get to more people at one time. The group discussed the possibility of determining a standard fee schedule and using both providers.

Provider Readiness

Barry Simon shared that the national trade groups may have connections with consultants who could come in to lecture of Medicaid billing readiness. These consultants would come in to promote readiness amongst providers, beginning with executives understanding the reality ahead. They would be able to share what agencies should expect, as well as the models used in states that have already converted to direct billing.

Barry Simon and Richard Sebastian shared that, at former agencies, they brought consultants in to transform the entire agency, training staff at all levels. Ultimately, this will need to happen in Connecticut, but should start with an introduction and onboarding of leadership.

Deputy Commissioner Mason suggested that DDS partner with The Arc and The Alliance to host one or more conferences to this end around the state.

Blended Services

Deputy Commissioner Mason shared that the regions are nearly finished submitting lists of individuals to participate in this pilot from the regional offices. Once the lists are complete, authorizations for blended services will be issued.

Richard Sebastian asked whether we could consider moving to a uniform model, wherein all funding is combined and all DSP titles are combined. Commissioner Scheff noted that there are typically bargaining unit pay differentials between residential and day DSPs, which would have to be considered.

In addition, Commissioner Scheff suggested that the combining of accounts at DDS could be complicated, particularly with the residential account currently housed at DSS. The group discussed the issue of accountability versus flexibility – separate accounts allow for greater accountability, but hamper flexibility and cause issues for providers attempting to allow reasonable flexibility to improve the lives of the individuals supported when audits are conducted.

Employment

The group agreed that, in FY2019, the employment funding will be offered as grants to cover franchise fees or start-up costs for business ventures. Providers and families should be able to apply. The group discussed the need to determine specific language for applications, benchmarks, expectations, etc. In addition, the group agreed that there should be a review committee comprised of people with business backgrounds.

Richard Sebastian suggested that DDS look into whether the funding could be assigned to a nonprofit funder to manage. The group agreed that this creative approach could be considered in future years, but that in the interest of time, a standard RFP application process will likely be best for FY2019.

4. Next steps

DDS will handle next steps on Assistive Technology – look at how to develop a standard fee schedule.

DDS will handle next steps on Provider Readiness – contact The Arc and The Alliance regarding a conference.

DDS will handle next steps on Blended Services – regions will finish selecting the groups and issue new authorizations.

DDS will handle next steps on Employment – bring together a group to work on benchmarks, expectations, etc. for grant applications.

***IDPAC Priorities
Finalized 8/22/18***

1. **Employment:** support alternative business models or alternative models of support that would employ or encourage the employment of people with intellectual disability through education and consideration of the establishment of a revolving loan fund for startup costs.
2. **Blended Services:** establish a combination residential/day services account to pilot blended services for a small group of individuals.
3. **Assistive Technology:** fund provider staff training on how to properly implement and promote assistive technology.
4. **Provider Readiness:** offer provider readiness analysis and education in the area of Medicaid direct billing.