

Intellectual Disability Partnership Advisory Committee
Kickoff Meeting Minutes
6/20/18

Convened at 1:12pm.

Present: Commissioner Jordan Scheff (DDS), Barry Simon (Oak Hill), Deputy Commissioner Peter Mason (DDS), Andrea Barton-Reeves (HARC), Judy Dowd (OPM), Adrienne Benjamin (DDS Council), Marina Derman (West RAC), Collette Langner (parent), Katie Rock-Burns (DDS).

Absent: Barry Bosworth (parent), Lauren Traceski (self-advocate), Andrea Ferrucci (Mosaic), Richard Sebastian (Kennedy Center), Kate McEvoy (DSS).

Public: Anne Foley (OPM), Shelly Maynes (OPM).

1. Introductions

2. Summary of ID Partnership Work

Commissioner Scheff outlined the statutory change that formalized the Intellectual Disability Partnership Advisory Committee (IDPAC). Statutory language is broad, but the original intent of a group like this was to provide guidance, identify gaps in services, address wraparound services, and explore alternatives. Interim language focused on CCH development and provider stability.

Commissioner Scheff summarized the work on which DDS focused in FY 2018:

- Increased rates for IHS – cost effective, important way to provide supports but not sustainable for providers at previous rates.
- Used data from a residential support needs survey to find individuals interested in CCHs – allowed each region to develop 20 new CCH placements.
- Funded a few Shared Living proposals.

Commissioner Scheff shared that DDS is considering the CCH model as a focus area for expansion and is therefore undertaking some program modifications to help ensure success:

- DDS is looking at leaning the CCH licensing process – balancing timeliness with safety.
- DDS is looking at approving home modifications or adaptive equipment for CCH licensees to make homes accessible.
- DDS is looking at enhancing respite packages for CCH licensees committing to individuals with more intensive needs (behavioral, mental health, etc.).

Judy Dowd committed to looking into whether DDS could get bond money to fund CCH home modifications.

Marina Derman noted that we should look into how to handle aging populations in CCHs (e.g. retirement).

3. Brainstorming Session: FY 2019 Measures of Success

Katie Rock-Burns summarized that the IDPAC statute is broad, so the group needs to define focus areas, outcomes, and measures of success for FY 2019.

Andrea Barton-Reeves requested that we focus some of the work on employment opportunities, which is a major area of need, especially with new graduates entering the system every year. Commissioner Scheff noted that DDS understands the need and is attempting to support providers through efforts such as Project SEARCH. Hearing concerns from Marina Derman that employers rarely hire after the internship year, Commissioner Scheff shared that DDS is modeling after some successful programs that have high rates of employment, but that this is not a single solution.

Deputy Commissioner Mason shared that DDS is seeking to employ someone with a sole focus on employment to work with providers, private sector, corporations, etc. Andrea Barton-Reeves noted that it would be helpful for someone at DDS to do a nationwide scan of employment opportunities and look at how to help providers do that work in CT.

Commissioner Scheff raised the notion of providers supporting individuals in franchising small businesses. Barry Simon shared that this work is challenging in a climate of risk aversion and cost settlement. Deputy Commissioner Mason suggested that the group consider instituting a business development revolving loan fund for individuals.

Additional issues that were raised by the group for consideration included:

- Provider issues – managed fee for service system, continuum gaps, provider stability.
- Crisis response – DDS is beginning to address this through the “Emergency Placement” funding appropriated in the FY 2019 budget.
- Resources for individuals who are aging – some of these issues will be addressed through the SB 463 task force (e.g. dementia/Alzheimer’s supports); some issues relate more to retirement options for individuals (e.g. Senior Center model).
- Consideration of a combination residential/day support account to allow for flexibility.
- Consideration of tweaks to the system to allow the flexibility necessary for individuals to move between levels of care within a single provider.
- Assistive technology as a support for greater independence.
- Consideration of a clustered supported living model for non-sleep hours.

4. Meeting Schedule/Structure

Commissioner Scheff requested that the group amend the schedule to meet monthly through September. There was unanimous agreement. Katie Rock-Burns will send out additional meeting dates.

Deputy Commissioner Mason requested that the group reflect on the minutes and share with any affiliated groups, returning with recommendations for priorities.

Adjourned at 2:42pm.