
DDS Executive Briefs

An Update on CT DDS Initiatives

April 24, 2018

Message from the Commissioner

Dear Friends,

As spring appears to have finally sprung, I want to take the opportunity to share some of the new work taking root here at DDS. In particular, as I mentioned in my last message, we are excited to continue the work of the Intellectual Disability Partnership (IDP) in 2018. The charge to the IDP is to conceive of new ways to offer supports to individuals with intellectual disability in Connecticut, in order expand our continuum of services and maximize all available resources.

To this end, we will be working with stakeholders across the state in the coming months to discuss and design new models of support. We will be looking to our IDP Advisory Committee as a primary source of information and feedback in this area, as we kick off meetings in June. We will continue to promote more innovative and contemporary service models to individuals for whom they are appropriate, in an effort to free up resources that can be utilized to provide services to more individuals in more efficient ways. Specifically, we will be looking to illustrate the wonderful outcomes achieved in some less familiar residential options.

We have started on some of this work already, especially seeking to promote our Community Companion Home (CCH) and In-Home Support (IHS) models. Through the FY18 IDP funds, we have been able to authorize 60 new CCH placements this year, increasing our participation in the CCH model by over 15%. We have also been able to raise the IHS rate by one dollar per hour; though modest, it does represent our commitment to ensuring that this integrated and independent model of living for individuals is adequately funded.

I extend my sincere thanks to everyone involved in these efforts, from DDS staff to providers, family members to self-advocates. As we have seen across the country, it takes a truly collaborative effort to move a system – and I believe that, together, we are making great strides to do so in Connecticut.

With appreciation,
Jordan Scheff

Flower Show 2018

The Springtime in Paris 2018 Flower Show took place on March 26, 2018 at the Horticulture Center at Camp Quinebaug. This annual event drew over 75 visitors, with 15 entries of floral arrangements that were comprised of fresh flowers, living plants or dried plant material. All arrangements captured

original interpretations of French art, poetry or characters used to develop the theme, and were created by individuals or collaboratively. A reception and live music set the tone for a lovely event. Special thanks to Kathryn Desjardins and the team at the Horticulture Center for coordinating this very special event.

Congratulation to the following award recipients:

Judged Competition:

- 1st** "Joli Chapeaux" ARC of Quinebaug Valley Cook Hill DSO
- 2nd** "Pepé Le Pew" Charles Russell
- 3rd** "A French Window Box" Goodwill of Hartford

People's choice awards:

- 1st** "From Paris with Love" Sunrise Northeast Hawkins St.
- 2nd** "Boulangerie" Alipio Valenti
- 3rd** "The Three Musketeers" Gary Sirard



The Horticulture Program is a public/private cooperative venture located at Camp Quinebaug, 54 Taos Drive, Danielson, CT. Horticultural classes are held at the Center, in the community, with outreach groups to local CLAs and private sector agencies. Program participants are responsible for greenhouse production and maintenance, as well as therapeutic design and development of twelve teaching gardens around the Camp. Vocational participants teach the summer children's gardening program for the six week day camper session (100-120 children). Volunteer activities are coordinated with local churches for floral donations and the People's Harvest for vegetable production donated to local soup kitchens. The curriculum is developed in conjunction with UConn Master Gardeners, The North East Horticultural Therapy Network and the Learning in Retirement Program at Quinebaug Valley Community College.

New Medicaid Report for Providers

DDS is releasing a new report that will show providers which DDS-funded individuals who are supported by their agency have lost Medicaid eligibility. The report is updated every Thursday, but can be run at any time. All WebResDay users will have access to the report starting April 20, 2018. The link below provides instructions on how to access this report. The report runs best in Internet Explorer. Please contact DDS.Waiver@ct.gov with any questions.

http://www.ct.gov/dds/lib/dds/operations_center/billing/not_on_medicaid_wrd_report.pdf

Statewide Contracting

The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) has been working with staff from state agencies, Accenture consulting and the Core-CT (statewide financial management system) team to design an online health and human service Purchase of Service/Personal Service Agreement (POS/PSA) contracts management system in Core-CT that will automate and standardize the process. The online contracting system was

released in March of this year. This system will involve significant changes for provider and state agency staff.

The following is a brief summary of the new online Contract Management System:

- The document management portion of the system contains contract clauses and templates.
- Functionality will include online collaboration (contract drafting) between agency staff and contractors, as well as internal and external negotiations from inception to finalization.
- The state and contractors will be utilizing DocuSign, e-signature software, to sign and execute contracts.
- Online post award contract management processes and document sharing will be done in Core-CT.

The successful implementation of this system will require provider assistance in the following areas:

- Communicating with DDS for training and assistance in regard to this system. Training for providers will be available in the form of job aids in CORE-CT and e-Learning sessions developed by Core-CT and Accenture. DDS will assist providers by providing guidance and direction, offering training and question and answer sessions, and responding to inquiries.
- Designating individuals in their organization to have roles that allow them to transact and provide these IDs to DDS to enable their security.
- Working and communicating with DDS to determine what contracts will be entered in the system versus completed in the current process.

All new contracts going forward should be done through Supplier Contract Management in Core-CT.

The first step of the new process is to ensure that all of the providers have access to the system in Core-CT. Please work with DDS to get the appropriate access needed in Core-CT for each of your staff member(s). Once this step is completed, providers will have access to the system and be able to view the training sessions that will be available.

Advocates' Corner

Don't forget to check out Advocates' Corner on the DDS website! The Corner is updated regularly with success stories and links to information on initiatives, programs, and campaigns. Most recently, the Self-Advocate Coordinators have published the "No Excuse for Abuse" brochure, as well as offering registration for the spring 2018 Healthy Relationship Series.

<http://www.dds.ct.gov/advocatescorner/site/default.asp>

Partnering on Lean

DDS has forged new partnerships this year, in conducting Lean work with sister agencies on licensure and certification. The Licensure and Certification Workgroup (LCW) was formed through the passage of Special Act 17-21, requiring a group of representatives from state agencies (DDS, DMHAS, DCF and DPH) and nonprofit providers (The Alliance) to conduct a review of state agency certification and licensure processes that apply to certain nonprofit community providers. The Special Act assigned OPM to

facilitate and oversee the activities, and tasked the group with identifying potential efficiencies that would benefit the agencies, community providers, and individuals. A weeklong cross-agency Lean event with this group occurred in November 2017. Some of the recommendations to be implemented include:

- Legislative proposals aimed at reducing the administrative impact of these processes on nonprofits, in order to reduce time away from the individuals they support.
- Move to primarily announced vs. unannounced inspections, to increase availability of staff and reduce re-work.
- Adopt standardized checklists for inspections and renewals across agencies.
- Allow access to electronic health records, service documentation and training records to allow offsite document review.
- Work toward elimination of paper processing and acceptance of electronic signatures.

The Lean week helped agencies and providers better understand each other's business needs and perspectives. The team was able to come up with creative solutions and think outside the box to achieve positive outcomes for all parties. Results, project plans and key performance indicators were presented to a combined group of agency staff and administrators, to The Alliance, and to the members of the legislature.

DDS conducted an internal Lean on licensing of CLAs prior to the statewide event and has already implemented a number of efficiencies, including waiving the requirement for agencies with a two year license to submit an application packet every year, and extending the license to three years for citation free inspections. Removing the requirement for annual application submission will reduce over 400 application packets being submitted each year.

State Budget Update

The Governor released Recommended Budget Adjustments for fiscal year 2019 on February 7, 2018. Changes for DDS included the addition of a new appropriation of \$5 million to assist with Emergency Placements and the conversion of an additional ten CLAs from public to private operation.

On Friday, April 20, 2018, the Appropriations Committee met to discuss and pass midterm budget adjustments for fiscal year 2019. The House Democrats and Republicans on the committee presented two different versions of midterm budget adjustments.

The House Democrats moved to split the Joint Committee on Appropriations between the Senate and House members. The House Democrats proceeded to offer their adjusted budget, which was passed out of the committee with a House Favorable Report and will move on to the House of Representative for a vote. The fate of the bill, if passed by the House, is uncertain because it was passed out of the Appropriations Committee only with House members voting and did not have a vote by Senate members of the committee. The only change in this budget from the Governor's budget adjustment for DDS is the addition of funding to cover costs associated with the Personal Care Attendant collective bargaining agreement.

The House and Senate Republicans offered their adjusted budget, which was voted on by both House and Senate members of the committee, but failed to pass out of the Appropriations Committee.

In April, the Office of Policy and Management projected a shortfall of \$363.5 million for the current fiscal year.

Legislative Update

The 2018 legislative session ends at midnight on May 9, 2018. DDS proposed five agency bills this year. Last week, the Senate combined all five bills into Senate Bill (SB) 165, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO ITS STATUTES which is now on the House Calendar (Cal. No. 406). The amended bill passed the Senate on the consent calendar on 4/18/18.

Bill history SB 165:

https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&which_year=2018&bill_num=165

Senate Amendment A (LCO 3656):

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2018/amd/S/pdf/2018SB-00165-R00SA-AMD.pdf>

The four bills that were amended onto SB 165 include:

SB 168, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING GROUP HOME LICENSING VISITS.

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2018/FC/pdf/2018SB-00168-R000089-FC.pdf>

HB 5153, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING GUARDIANSHIP ASSESSMENTS.

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2018/FC/pdf/2018HB-05153-R000053-FC.pdf>

HB 5155, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' RECOMMENDATION REGARDING WAIVER OF LICENSING FEES FOR PRIVATE PROVIDERS.

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2018/FC/pdf/2018HB-05155-R000054-FC.pdf>

HB 5159, AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES REGARDING OVERSIGHT OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE AND END-OF-LIFE PLANNING.

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2018/FC/pdf/2018HB-05159-R000231-FC.pdf>

The DDS Legislative Affairs Division provides updates on the DDS website throughout the session with information regarding legislation that we are tracking for potential impact on DDS stakeholders. We invite you to check the DDS Legislative Affairs webpage regularly during the session for the most up-to-date information. DDS testimony on proposed bills also can be found at this [link](#).