

**The Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Service Improvement Working
Group
Thursday, July 10, 2014
Legislative Office Building – Room 2A
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Emily Angeloff, Andrea Barton Reeves, Deborah Chernoff, Judy Dowd, Tom Fiorentino (Co-chair), Terry Macy, Tom McCann, Morna Murray, Lisa Roland, Varian Salters, Leslie Simoes, Barry Simon, Jonathan Slifka (Co-Chair), Tracey Walker and Julia Wilcox

Members Absent: Terry Edelstein and Tesha Imperati

Call to Order – The meeting convened at 2:10 p.m.

Minutes - The minutes of the June 26th meeting were approved as submitted

Presentations

1. Commissioner Macy distributed a packet (*State Laws/Policies Regarding Waiting Lists - attached*) containing the responses he received to his inquiry about how other states decide who gets access to services on their waiting lists. Not many states responded but he observed that the ones that did followed 2 approaches; first come, first serve or based on assessment.

Some discussion ensued about the definition of eligibility criteria across the country. The Commissioner stated that definitions are fairly uniform – based on DSM V criteria and deficits in adaptive behavior.

2. System Overview/MIR Information - DDS South Regional Director, Thomas Dailey
 - He started his presentation by dispelling some myths about DDS intentions:
 - o They will not be closing group homes
 - o They do intend to continue to help individuals on the waiting list and planning lists as resources permit
 - o They will not be putting clients into apartments without services
 - He noted that although there are individuals waiting for new services or increased services, Connecticut is the second most generous state in terms of the value of resources provided to clients.
 - DDS gets over 5,000 requests per year. Most are for employment and day services, respite and family support grants and those get approved pretty routinely. Residential placements are more difficult to accommodate.
 - He provided a little background on how the Planning Resource Allocation Teams (PRAT) make their decisions. The following conditions get immediate response:
 1. Health and safety emergencies. In FY 2014, DDS approved 116 placements at a cost of \$8.8 million
 2. Protective services order from the Office of Protection and Advocacy

3. Extraordinary risk
 4. Individuals already enrolled in a waiver who have a change of circumstance
 5. Graduates almost routinely receive employment and day services
 6. Individuals in residential age outs are also accommodated in new residential placements
- In order to receive services, individuals must be eligible for Medicaid and enroll in a waiver so their services can be 50% reimbursed by the federal government.
 - He explained that in order for states to maintain participation in Medicaid waivers, they must comply with the conditions of participation. Some of them are:
 1. Individual's needs met
 2. Health and safety assured
 3. Services must be community-based
 4. Individuals must show continuous improvement
 5. Costs must be reasonable – the legacy system expensive
 6. Services must be portable
 7. Rates must be uniform based on Level of Need (LON). Connecticut committed to moving toward uniform rates within 7 years

3. PRAT Process

- Regional PRAT managers explained the process. Case managers make requests but are not involved in decision-making so there can be conflict-free decisions. Individuals who do not agree with decisions have administrative review which can be upheld or overturned and if they are still not happy, there is appeal to the Commissioner.
- Every client has an individual plan. LON determines the level of resources received (table attached). If family disagrees with the LON score, they can appeal that as well.

Questions.

- Some discussion about the cost of private vs. public group homes
- Whether revenue should be reinvested into additional services
- Commissioner Macy was asked to provide waiver requirements. He said they could be found on the CMS website.
- Suggestion that DDS could receive proceeds from the sale of properties. DDS said that statute does call for up to \$8 million of the proceeds from the sale of Seaside to go to them.
- Some discussion about the meetings DDS has been having with families on the P1 list. They are finding that many families are looking for in-home supports. The group wanted to understand what happens to the funding that was allocated for more services. And what happens when they need additional services at a later point. DDS explained that they go back to through the PRAT system.

Next meeting is Thursday, July 24th at 2:00 pm.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 4:14 p.m.