

**Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Service Improvement
Working Group
Thursday, August 14, 2014
Legislative Office Building – Room 2B
Meeting Minutes**

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

Members Absent: Tesha Imperati, Tom McCann, and Varian Salters

Guests: Robin Wood and Pat Dillon, Department of Developmental Services

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

Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the July 24th meeting were approved as submitted.

Community of Practice Presentation–

Robin Wood presented an overview of the Community of Practice Initiative. DDS received a grant to examine processes for improving supports to individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families across the span of their lifetime. This multi-year grant will give DDS the opportunity to work with others to find new and innovative ways to support more families.

Questions/Discussion

There was much discussion regarding the goal and vision of the model, how it will help to increase the number of individuals served and how DDS will provide the services.

It was explained that it is important for individuals to live where they choose and still be able to receive supports from DDS. Individuals are prioritized by level of need (LON) and there is more and more emphasis on providing community-based and natural supports.

This project aims at connecting families through integrated supports such as;

- person-centered planning and employment
- community members and friends
- schools and other community-based groups
- technology and remote monitoring
- Medicaid and Social Security benefits

DDS is also developing an on-line tool that will provide a technological support system for families. By building on current systems and developing new ones, concerns and issues can be addressed capitalizing on best practices. However, system change takes time and a step-by-step process will help guide DDS in implementing the process.

Mentor Project Presentation –

Pat Dillon presented an overview of the *Living the Mission* Mentor Project. DDS has partnered with eight agencies to provide a supported way forward that will assist in shifting agency culture toward a fuller realization of the mission of partnering with individuals and families to promote meaningful opportunities for individuals to fully become and stay valued citizens of their communities.

Questions/Discussion

There were questions regarding the vision of the project, the path that may be taken and how the project will help address the waiting list issues.

DDS believes the current system is unsustainable. They have enlisted the support of three nationally recognized system transformation mentors to guide them in meeting mutually identified goals:

- to develop a person-driven system that supports individuals to live the lives they choose
- to develop a learning community so that best practices can be developed
- to develop leaders to mentor others in the process
- to help management re-think DDS process to more fully support individuals and families.

The path is beginning to develop and agencies are working on ideas that will take some time.

Several questions revolved around funding mechanisms, whether or not new funds would be available for services, how DDS utilizes savings and how they can bring more resources into the system.

There is currently no mechanism in place for DDS to automatically re-utilize savings. Funding for caseload growth and new initiatives are policy decisions and must be approved through the budget development process. However, DDS continuously evaluates who is in need of services and strives to serve more people through different mechanisms and looks at ways to free up resources in order to provide more supports.

By developing new models, better decisions can be made as to who should be served and how best to stretch available funds.

Future Meeting Dates/Times – The next meeting is scheduled for September 4, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. at the LOB.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.