

**Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Service Improvement
Working Group
Thursday, September 18, 2014
Legislative Office Building – Room 1A
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Tom Fiorentino and Jonathan Slifka (Co-chairs), Emily Angeloff, Judy Dowd, Terry Edelstein, Terry Macy, Morna Murray, Andrea Barton Reeves, Lisa Roland, Varian Salters, Leslie Simoes, Julia Wilcox and Linda Vannoni for Deborah Chernoff

Members Absent: Barry Simon, Tesha Imperati, Tom McCann, and Tracey Walker

Guests: Jordan Scheff, Department of Developmental Services

Call to Order – The meeting convened at 2:13 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the September 4th meeting were approved as submitted.

DDS Presentation –

Commissioner Macy spoke about previous waiting list initiatives and their impacts. Three handouts were provided to the group:

- Connecticut Waiting List & Projections, prepared September 23, 2008 in response to the Settlement Agreement in the ARC/Connecticut et al. v. O’Meara et al. litigation.
 - The number of people waiting for residential services trended upward from 07/03 until 12/05 where it peaked to 751 then trended downward declining to 560 in 06/08.
- DDS Waiting List Point in Time, June 2004 – June 2014 which shows the number of individuals on the waiting list in June of each year.
 - The number of people waiting for residential services declined to 482 in 06/09 at the end of the settlement initiative, then trended upward until 06/14 where it peaked to 684, mostly due to the growth of the P1 population and lack of new resources.
- Waiting List, prepared November 12, 2009 to indicate progress and movement over a five year period from FY 2005 – 2009.
 - 1,559 people moved over 5 years.

The Commissioner also provided information on the status of the new waiting list funding.

- Over 90 individuals have been identified, mostly with an emergent need for services. They will be notified by January. Additional individuals will be served after those plans have been implemented. DDS hopes to serve approximately 110 – 150 total individuals with the \$4 million.

The Commissioner further stated that the needs of families are complex and requests change frequently. And that even without specially identified “new” money, DDS continues to identify and accommodate individuals in need of emergency placements, and with various other changing needs. There are many challenges to meeting the needs of such a diverse group of clients and families but they strive every day to do that.

DDS Presentation –

Jordan Scheff briefly explained the PRAT process and how they determine the LON - the age of the caregiver, resources available to the individual, additional DDS supports received and whether or not there is a risk of harm to oneself or others. He described some of the real situations of individuals on the waiting list categorized as Es. The stories were very sobering. Some individuals were considered to be an imminent danger to themselves or were homeless, unable to care for themselves or were in abusive situations, had no source of income or had experienced the death of a caregiver.

Questions/Discussion –

The group thanked Jordan for bringing stories into the data discussions.

Co-chair Slifka reiterated that the group needs to work on developing ideas to address the waiting list that are not tied completely to new funding. As there is no one solution to address the problem, the group must take a balanced approach in developing recommendations. The group has been given a difficult challenge. Members suggested that they don't want to only contemplate the cheapest options for dealing with the wait list either, as that may jeopardize person-centered planning.

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

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 3:46 p.m.