

**Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Service Improvement  
Working Group  
Thursday, November 13, 2014  
Legislative Office Building – Room 2B  
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Tom Fiorentino and Jonathan Slifka (Co-chairs), Emily Angeloff, Deborah Chernoff, Judy Dowd, Terry Edelstein, Joe Drexler for Terry Macy, Tom McCann, Morna Murray, Lisa Roland, Leslie Simoes, Barry Simon, Julia Wilcox, Jennifer Fournier for Andrea Barton Reeves and Elisa Velardo for Tracey Walker

Members Absent – Varian Salters

Call to Order – The meeting convened at 2:12 p.m.

Introduction of Members

Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the October 16, 2014 meeting were approved as submitted.

Presentations by Families –

Individuals shared their personal stories regarding their circumstances or that of their family members. They discussed their viewpoints regarding the challenges and possible solutions to address the residential waiting list and spoke of the frustrations they have encountered while trying to acquire state supports. Many families also shared success stories and gave other positive feedback regarding the system.

Topics of the presentations included:

- The importance of routine, comfort and structure for children.
- Assurance for children and families that the future will be secure for them as caregivers age. There is worry regarding what may happen after a caregiver dies. Families would like a more proactive system including more residential placements.
- Some families don't understand their status with DDS and the categories that are used, for example; Emergency, Priority 1 and Planning Lists or where they fall on these lists. They would like to find an easier way to understand the categories and placement information.
- Families find it hard to understand why more people can't get served and feel that the current DDS budget should be able to support more people if individuals were moved from Southbury Training School and the Regional Centers to private group homes. There is much confusion about the costs of public group homes versus private group homes.
- Families expressed gratitude for in-home supports, but stated that there is a need for more emergency and respite supports.
- Frustrations surrounding housing; many families suggested providing access to more affordable options.

- More opportunities for children to learn skills that foster independence.
- Transition process is lengthy and difficult for individuals and families.

### Discussions

- Newer, better models are good, but hard to grasp knowing funds are limited.
- Funds are limited and it should be noted that many new services cannot be provided to more individuals unless services are taken away from others.
- Often times services aren't offered until caregiver is incapacitated.
- Consider RAPs at DDS for scattered site housing assistance.
- Proactive work is hard with limited funding.
- Population is living longer and services are provided longer, which creates stress on the system.

The group thanked the families for speaking and promised to consider their suggestions and ideas as options when developing recommendations. More information regarding public versus private group home costs will be provided at a future meeting.

Future Meeting Dates/Times – The next meeting is scheduled for December 18, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. at the LOB.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.