

Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Service Improvement Working Group
Tuesday, January 20th, 2015 – 10:00 am
DDS North Regional Office, 3rd Floor Training Room
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Tom Fiorentino and Jonathan Slifka (Co-chairs), Deborah Chernoff, Judy Dowd, Joe Drexler for Terry Macy, Morna Murray, Jennifer Fournier for Andrea Barton Reeves, Walter Glomb for Lisa Roland, Varian Salters, Leslie Simoes, Tracey Walker, and Julia Wilcox

Members Absent – Emily Angeloff, Terry Edelstein, Tom McCann, and Barry Simon

Call to Order – The meeting convened at 10:04 a.m.

Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the December 18, 2014 meeting were reviewed and it was suggested that they be amended to include a comment made by Secretary Barnes that it may be a good idea to update an OLR report regarding the number of private provider staff who access public benefits. Minutes were approved as amended.

Q&A and Further Discussion w/OPM and DDS

The working group had an informal conversation with Judy Dowd from OPM to discuss questions prepared by the workgroup at previous meetings. There was no formal presentation or handouts. The major topics included:

- History of DDS lapses – bottom line, holdbacks and uses. One time lapses cannot be used to support new placements if funding cannot be assured in future years to annualize costs of placements. Many PS lapses are due to delays in hiring. Oftentimes, lapses in one account are used to cover shortfalls in another account or even used to cover statewide lapse requirements or shortfalls. Rescissions (which show as lapses) are often necessary to help balance the budget. It was also noted that when people leave services, the funds may be redirected to be used toward emergency placements.
- Pension costs and relation to Southbury Training School – discussion on what costs are allowable for federal reimbursement. There are administrative costs that are permitted to be included in the calculation but that does not necessarily mean that is how much the service costs. The group continues to try to understand what the fixed costs are at Southbury and what costs remain as Southbury downsizes.
- Private vs. Public group home costs. DDS explained the difficulty in preparing data for an apples to apples analysis of public vs private costs and how information is pulled from the system. Audited data is two years old. Cost data is used for rate setting purposes.
- Overtime and staff at Southbury Training School – The contracts for direct care workers require them to work a 35 hour work week. In order to cover 24 hour days, employees must work 8 hours per day. The first five hours of overtime is coded and paid at straight

time. Staff to client ratios are also higher at Southbury compared with other group homes. In addition, as census declines and Southbury consolidates, staff are moved to other vacancies in DDS.

Next Steps – The group was not able to get through all of the questions during the meeting and planned on setting up another meeting to continue the discussion and review any remaining questions. It was decided that it would be best to prioritize the questions and compile a new list.

Future Meeting Dates/Times – The next meeting will be determined at a later date.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.