



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Elisa F. Velardo
Deputy Commissioner

October 4, 2023

DDS Stakeholders,

I wanted to take time to check in and update you on some of the exciting progress the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has made in our efforts to transform our service delivery system. Through federal funding under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021, DDS has embarked on a journey to improve supports and services for DDS-eligible individuals through our initiative Supporting Transformation to Empower People (STEP).

To better develop and communicate the goals of STEP, DDS invited stakeholders to sit on committees that helped to guide us through the rollout and implementation of the STEP initiative. Over the past two years, five Stakeholder Committees have gathered to advise DDS in the areas of Residential, Employment/Day, Individual and Family Engagement, and DDS Staff Engagement, as well as an overall Advisory Committee.

Committee members have played an important role in collaborating with DDS to create innovative approaches, developing communications around newer supports like Assistive Technology and Remote Supports, and empowering family members and guardians to provide feedback on how DDS can better position itself to continue meeting the needs of individuals in these new environments.

As committees bring their work to a close, we will be winding down all meetings by the end of the year, with the exception of the Advisory Committee. Committee chairs and members have done an excellent job in laying the foundation for the next phase in this process - the implementation of various recommendations and best practices developed by individuals, families, providers, and DDS Staff. While there is more work to do, I am increasingly optimistic about the road ahead.

Thank you for all your support and involvement. Let's continue this transformation together!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jordan A. Scheff".

Jordan A. Scheff
DDS Commissioner