



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Elisa F. Velardo
Deputy Commissioner

DRAFT Minutes of October 18, 2022 ARPA Advisory Committee Meeting

Location: Meeting held Virtually via Microsoft Teams

In attendance: Peter Mason, Keith Lavalette, Tracey Walker, Greg McMahon, Michael Beloff, Win Everts, Barry Simon, Melissa Kremmel, Kathleen Staffer, Katie Banzhaf, Cheryl Ellis, Shannon Jacovino, Brian Smith, Kevin Bronson, Steven Siegelau, Paige Librandi, Kate Haaland

KeithLavalette, Chair , called the meeting to order

Keith Lavalette read the Public Meeting Requirements

Minutes of the 10/4/2022 Advisory Committee meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Bronson/Seigelaub.

Update from ARPA Committee Co-Chairs

- Residential Transformational Committee-
- The committee approved the interim residential incentives.
The Committee developed a draft description of the transformational process and also items that may interfere with individuals moving to a less restrictive environment. The Advisory Committee added input and will send to the day committee. Is this the right committee? It's under res. Will begin to review in hopes of eliminating some of the systemic issues.
- Committee has been looking at alternative residential supports including remote supports, also going over the HUB support concept and the ACT program that they use at DMHAS.

Day Transformational Committee-

- Day committee has had four meetings
- 1st meeting met on committee goals and Incentives
- 2nd meeting included presentation on diversity and inclusion,
- The Committee discussed items that may interfere with moving to an alternative day setting including
 1. Transportation or lack of public transportation
 2. Residential supports for less conventional schedules
 3. Lack of understanding of benefits
 4. Hours of employment compared to day program hours
 5. Coordination between residential and day providers
 6. Medical needs and accessibility issues if they impact work hours
- Discussed ISE incentives and what could be included as incentive payment Would hours that the individual is not directly involved be included?

- 3rd meeting -Presentation from NEBA this program is fully focus on employment
- The Committee discussed the Deloitte consultants for the transformational incentives and passed the interim day incentives.
- 4th meeting presentation on assistive technology and on the SELN commission and how the committee can work together.

Questions and comments from the Advisory Committee included having an overriding goal for transformation that should be to provide individuals we support to be active and engaged thirty hours per week.

Recently changed policy for individuals in ISE, they can now utilize their full LON amount- use additional money for day programs so we don't disincentivize ISE.

Transformation description fell short,.Transformation should lead to better choice of services, more people getting served for the right amount of money is what we should be driving towards.

DDS Engagement committee:

The committee is on a three week schedule. They conducted a survey finding out communication issues from management to the individual/family. Kevin Bronson is stepping away as co-chair and Joe Carvalho will be taking over as the co-chair.

Individual/Family Engagement committee:

Meets every two weeks, and they are providing education on the different types of services.

Next meeting they will discuss diversity, review of incentives and discuss how best to communicate the message. They will work with communication consultant on how best to communicate to individuals and families.

The chairs of both the DDS and the Individual/Families are working together on how best to combine efforts to come up with a consistent message.

McDowell Communication Group is the communication consultant that has been hired.

ARPA Initiative updates

Peter Mason gave an overview on all the ARPA initiatives and gave an update on each.

Discussion from family members on items identified that may interfere with moving to an alternative setting: Peter Mason is in process of compiling a list to try and figure out how best to resolve issues. Sending list now to both the day committee and Individual and Families committee

Transformation description draft document:

A draft was sent out as a working document to discuss the process of transformational funding. Peter Mason reviewed the document and the two phases in the transformation process as well as working with the Deloitte consultants.

Questions regarding the document included that we may need to use the term "less restrictive environment" as that is what parents and families are familiar with. - everyone needs to look at a plan and not sit on the sidelines. Parents should be involved and see in plain language what each service alternative is. Will Connecticut look at being able to adapt new supports that are currently not in Connecticut? DDS is not opposed to new supports but with the ARPA funding there is not the time to implement.

Deloitte update

ARPA team continues to meet with Deloitte representatives each week, on the agenda is how to work with both Deloitte and the Advisory committee, Currently gathering data and initial review of different states to review Developing draft transformational plan template for the initial phase.

Questions included: is Deloitte looking at the actual cost of the regulations that apply to the levels of care and will they look at the projected need of the number of beds as part of the system transformation?

DSS will be conducting a rate study and we need to wait on that. Quantify the impact on the economy by paying a fair price on employment. Shifting the conversation to lead to a productive private/public conversation. Using Deloitte to use their bandwidth to show the advantages of investing properly in non-profits.

Next meeting is November 1 2022 at 1:30pm