



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Elisa F. Velardo
Deputy Commissioner

DRAFT Minutes of November 1, 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, Paige Librandi,
Deloitte Team attendance- Betsy Bella, Julia Oak, Shome Owen, Brad Horman
Absent: Steven Siegelaub, Kate Haaland

Tracey Walker, Chair, called the meeting to order

Tracey Walker read the Public Meeting Requirements

Minutes of the 10/18/2022 Advisory Committee meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Beloff/Simon.

Deloitte Consultants

Betsy Bella from Deloitte discussed looking for input on two draft documents. A draft Transition Template and a Draft survey form were discussed. The survey has a two-fold purpose. It helps DDS to understand who may be interested in moving forward in the first phase and it also collects basic information on how in depth a provider is moving to either a full transformation plan or moving individuals out of a Residential congregate setting or Day congregate settings.

Questions/comments included:

- We need to let providers know that there are phases to this transformation process and we need to communicate to families what we are transitioning to.
- DDS is also currently working through the final setting rule

Deloitte provided an orientation to the Strawman Transition Plan document for the initial phase. The second phase will build on this document and once complete the providers will receive an electronic version of this document. Deloitte explained the different sections of the plan but mainly wanted to share the progress so far and is looking for feedback from interested parties on both the survey and the transformation template.

Update from Committee co-chairs

Residential Transformational Committee- Peter Mason provided an update including issues from the providers prospective including:

- Lack of security deposits
- Not enough funding for furniture

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- Personal needs allowance
- Looking at Meals on Wheels
- Timely HRC approvals.
- Are Incentives considered to be subject to the revenue retention rules? They must conform with the OPM cost standards and the guidelines in those standards.

Day Transformational Committee – Keith Lavalette provided the committee summary including:

- Presentation on Project Search by the ARC of Eastern Connecticut
- Discussion on issues with alternative day settings include:
 - Transportation issues
 - Residential supports for less conventional day schedules
 - Lack of understanding of benefits
 - Number of hours of employment compared to day program hours
 - Communication between Residential and day providers
 - Medical needs and accessibility if they impact employment or staffing supports
 - Staffing shortages, Family concerns over reduction in GSE and DSO options

Discussion and update on the SELN commission

Trever Rogers discuss the SELN commission recommendations and provided a PowerPoint included with the minutes.

Transformational Initiatives- discussion included:

- Why providers need to submit plans and reasons behind it
- How long it takes to implement initiatives
- Timing on the different phases
- Rate issues
- GSE programs and the decrease in the number of these programs and the elimination of the 14c and the further impact this can have on these programs.

DDS Engagement Committee:

Joseph Carvalho is the new co-chair taking over for Kevin Bronson. The committee shared updates of the various committees. They are working on various updates for DDS staff and have provided links to all the different committee meetings. They are working on how to tailor the message and the amount of information to the different levels of DDS staff and what each level needs to know. Commissioner Scheff will be sending a message to all stakeholders soon.

Individual/Family Engagement Committee: Greg McMahon summarized recent committee activity.

Completed process of education on the incentives. Provided training on diversity and inclusion. Next meeting will review the day interim incentives and the Movin- On transformational document. Working on gathering a list of issues and questions families have about the documents presented. Scheduling a combined co-chair meeting of both engagement committees along with the communication consultant – McDowell. How we deliver and communicate the messages to families needs to be coordinated.

Questions and comments included that group homes may close during this transformation process but DDS is not eliminating group homes and messaging needs to happen around that issue. Peter Mason will also send out the updated issues list to all the committees. Please send any feedback to Peter Mason on the Transformational

description draft document by November 4th. Providing CCH incentives was also raised as well as incentivizing families who choose to self-direct (not through direct payments to families).

Additional barriers to transformation:

- Families may interpret that DDS is closing group homes
- Staff/union could be concerned about potential job elimination. Communication around this NOT being a part of the plan needs to be clear.

DDS completed the Scope of Service with McDowell and they will begin working the beginning of November.

Next meeting is November 15, 2022 at 1:30pm.