



State of Connecticut  
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont  
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff  
Commissioner

Elisa F. Velardo  
Deputy Commissioner

**DRAFT Minutes of November 29, 2022 ARPA Advisory Committee Meeting**

Location: Meeting held Virtually via Microsoft Teams

In attendance: Peter Mason, Tracey Walker, Greg McMahon, Michael Beloff, Win Evarts, Barry Simon, Melissa Kremmel, Kathleen Staffer, Katie Banzhaf, Cheryl Ellis, Shannon Jacovino, Brian Smith, Kevin Bronson, Paige Librandi, Steven Siegelaub, Kate Haaland, Joe Carvalho  
Deloitte Team attendance- Betsy Bella,  
Absent: Shannon Jacovino, Keith Lavalette, Melissa Kremmel

Tracey Walker, Chair, called the meeting to order

Tracey Walker read the Public Meeting Requirements

Minutes of the 11/1/2022 Advisory Committee meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Evarts/Simon.

Peter Mason gave a Transformation Initiative update stating that the department will not be requiring a transition plan from all providers, but we are strongly encouraging it.

- We are looking at Phase 1 like a pilot phase, work with agencies at the beginning and then make changes from what we learn into Phase 2.
- We will have a submission period during Phase one. Providers will submit plan during a certain period and the regions will review and reply during a certain period of time.
- The transition plan template will be going out December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Greg McMahon is working on a letter to update Individuals and families
- In terms of ARPA dollars, it is a first come first serve but working with the department that if a provider submits a plan and it is approved that the Department will use state funds to make sure the transformation happens.
- We have engaged with McDowell communication group and they are in the research phase. They are looking to come to the various committee meetings. They will develop a survey on people's interest and knowledge at the beginning and then again at the end of the ARPA period. Also working on developing a communication plan and how to develop and deploy the message. Outcome for the McDowell group is to develop a project communication plan and calendar. Successfully deploy messaging on the Transformational initiative and to develop a communication strategy to increase stakeholders' interest in alternative community-based settings.

**Updates from Committee Co-chairs**

Day committee discussed outcomes in their last meeting

DDS engagement committee developed a communications tracking tool around six of the ARPA initiatives so as updates come out this committee can get the information out quicker.

Individual/Family committee is working on reviewing and simplifying a letter to families and individuals with McDowell's assistance. They are trying to focus on points for families and Individuals as agencies start to show interest in Phase 1.

### **Deloitte Consultants**

- Betsy Bella from Deloitte discussed Deloitte's approach to the Stakeholders Input sessions. What are the new options and what are people's reactions to the transformation initiative. Discussion on the structure of the input sessions, different sessions would be for Providers, Individuals and Families, Self-Advocates and Case Managers and state staff. Looking at up to 20 people per session so they will be able to get people's input and identify issues, what works well and discuss barriers. DDS will not be in attendance during the stakeholder sessions. There is a need to outreach especially the South W part of the state to make sure we are reaching all areas of the state. The meetings will be virtual. Survey will also go out in the language of the individual. Individual and family's session will look at:
  - Impact of transitioning individuals into less-restrictive settings
  - Ways to ensure that transition plans are person-centered and meet the health and safety needs of individuals
  - Factors that are most important to individuals as they consider transitioning to a different day/residential setting
  - Concerns about changes to available services

The state is looking at how we can transform services over the long term.

Discussion around the setup of the stakeholder session occurred.

Deloitte also gave a high-level view of the different state reviews and discussion occurred on levels of care and comparisons of other states and how they fit into Connecticut's service system, also borrowing and best practices from other states is often the key to a good transformation process.

Peter Mason will distribute the Transformational Outcomes to this group so they can comment on them.

Next meeting is December 13, 2022, at 1:30pm.