



State of Connecticut  
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont  
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff  
Commissioner

Elisa F. Velardo  
Deputy Commissioner

DRAFT Minutes of August 23, 2022 ARPA Residential Committee Meeting

Location: Meeting held Virtually via Microsoft Teams

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

Absent: Ric Wilkinson

Introductions

Peter Mason, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:34pm.

Topic for Discussion:

Peter Mason read the Public Meeting Requirements

Introductions were made.

Peter Mason gave an overview of ARPA and how it came about. He discussed Providers moving individuals to a more community based and Individual choice living or program setting, Labor shortages have been very problematic for providers along with other issues. Peter encourage providers to work with DDS on this initiative. Discussed moving 100 Individuals to a more community based setting for residential and moving 200 Individuals into more community based day services.

Peter Mason then discuss the Advisory Committee's goals which include:

- a. Assisting the department in promoting the array of residential and day options for individuals, including the advances in assistive technology to assist individuals to become more independent in their communities.
- b. Input on the financial incentives for providers to promote movement out of both group homes and community residential homes to these alternative residential settings.
- c. Oversee the communication sent out by the working committees.
- d. Work with the Transformational consultants and the department to discuss, promote and emphasize the importance of participation of the various stakeholders for this initiative.
- e. Provide expertise, knowledge, and participation with the Communication Consultant in the development and execution of educational materials, stakeholder forums and other media

initiatives to assist with providing information access to individuals, guardians, families, providers, and others on the various alternative residential supports that are available.

- f. Provide discussion and direction to the department on future options of group home and day placements.
- g. Provide assistance and advice to the department on individual's choice if placement is unsuccessful and the provision of a safety net for the individual and/or other options available to the individual and the family.

Question and Answer period