



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Elisa F. Velardo
Deputy Commissioner

DRAFT Minutes of September 20, 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 Banzaf, Cheryl Ellis, Shannon Jacovino, Brian Smith, Kevin Bronson, Steven Siegelaub; Paige Librandi Kate Haaland

Absent: Ric Wilkinson,

Keith Lavalette, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:3

Keith Lavalette read the Public Meeting Requirements

Minutes of the 9/6/2022 Advisory Committee meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Bronson/Simon.

The Advisory Committee email inbox was discussed, directions on how to accept the Teams invite will be sent to each advisory committee member. If any difficulties contact Keith Lavalette.

Business between meetings: Win Everts emailed the co-chairs with information he felt was important to the 9/6/2022 meeting which included "an important element in the data collection part of the discussion, the outreach on individuals experience prior, during and after transition to a new setting or service be aimed first and foremost on seeking input from the individuals themselves". Data collection should start at the point in time that the individual identifies the desire to make the transition. This comment resulted in discussing which included:

- How many providers are willing to take on new services with the incentives and what happens when the incentives run out?
- The data gathered should be used to develop best practices when transitioning people to new types of services.
- These transitions will not be easy and it all boils down to the rates.
- We should see which agencies are already doing this without the incentives and find out how they're doing it.
- An additional challenge is the current housing market and availability of rentals.
- Moving people out isn't a goal if it's not sustainable.

Transformation Initiatives and Deloitte Consultants

Discussion included Data collection around a broad array of supports in Connecticut for individuals creating sustainable rates for all services provided and surveying agencies that are already moving individuals out of CLA's.

Co-Chairs of all committees should be encouraged to send out surveys on the specifics of the process of moving individuals out of congregate settings.

Contract with Deloitte- moving on a dual path looking at agencies who volunteer to move forward with current interim incentives and also work with Deloitte on the following phases:

Project management & Assessment Phase: assess current system including rates, research 5 other states, gather stakeholder input including other state agencies, look at delivery plan

Design Phase: outcome based payment program, develop transition plan based on operational changes

Plan & Implement Phase: plan with providers, Train providers, develop implementation plans, assist providers implement

Keith will send out the scope of work for DeLoitte to the Committee. DeLoitte will be invited to the next meeting.

Emphasis with the Advisory Committee is that it is a Transformation Committee and not a rate committee. Transformation is about identifying alternatives of service that add to the continuum of care. Committee members felt it important the rates be addressed concurrently.

The Residential Committee meeting had discussions on various processes but not about the incentives themselves. The Residential Committee approved the interim residential incentives and are working on a more detailed structure and Day Committee is working on approving interim incentives.

Discussion from committee members on items identified by families and individuals included: fears about losing funding, no perception/understanding about moving through the system, need to promote services, as individual needs change services needs to change and concerns that families don't know enough about service options, families need to hear why this is happening from DDS leadership. It was suggested that using the phrase "less restrictive environment" might be more recognizable to parents. This will be kept as a standing agenda item.

The communication consultant RFP was rebid. It is hoped that the consultant will be on-board by end of October.

Next meeting is October 4, 2022 at 1:30pm.