



State of Connecticut Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Elisa F. Velardo
Deputy Commissioner

DRAFT Minutes of September 6, 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, Steven Siegelau;

Absent: Ric Wilkinson, Paige Librandi

Tracey Walker, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:37pm.

Topic for Discussion:

Tracey Walker read the Public Meeting Requirements

Minutes of the 8/23/2022 Advisory Committee meeting were revised and approved.

Presentation on Diversity and Inclusion was presented by Cheryl Ellis (PowerPoint attached).

The Advisory Committee email inbox was discussed, it was still unknown if system presented will work for all members as most are from outside DDS. Options will be further explored and Keith Lavalette will let the committee know the outcome.

The draft residential and day incentives were discussed. The following points/questions were made regarding the residential incentives:

- Questions regarding the waiting list,
- the purpose of the incentives,
- individuals with significant support needs,
- what new revamped residential homes would look like
- concerns about vision on how we want the system to be
- need to outline the total continuum of care
- providers want to have stability in how they are able to run their agencies
- preventing people from going back into more restrictive care
- concerns about individuals not living in areas close to family or close to community services (remote areas),
- need for flexibility
- add Supported Housing to the incentives

- is the goal to move people out of congregate care or to close under utilized settings?
- How will short term incentives get us to rates that work?
- I H S and how this will work
- Access to things other than DDS supports has to be given consideration

Day program incentive concerns included:

- Individuals are not actively engaged for 25 to 30 hours per week particularly if moved to competitive employment for fewer hours
- moving individuals from sub-minimum wage to minimum wage should be incentivized
- 14c as we know it is gone,
- our vision for the transformation of the system should be clear
- operate in a way to provide incentives that support rates for those services.

DDS has selected the Transformational Consultant, Deloitte Consultants The Communication Consultant has not been selected yet.

The importance of communication was emphasized and the following list of considerations was presented:

Some of the items we will need to communicate:

1. Who are all the stakeholders?
2. What formats to utilize to ensure the plan is multi-lingual and incorporates different learning modalities?
3. What is transformation and why it is being done?
4. What are the current congregate programs operated by DDS?
5. What alternative residential and day programs do private providers currently provide that increases independence and community integration?
6. What are transformational Plans?
7. How will these plans be developed?
8. What roles will the various stakeholders have in the development of transformational plans for the individual provider?
9. What are some of the options for an individual or their family who disagrees with changes to the person's current living arrangement?
10. How to encourage providers to work together to maximize options for individuals?
11. Other items?

No additional considerations were offered by the group

Discussion on Transformational plans and potential effects on the waiting list was brief and will be added to the next meeting agenda. Some comments:

- outcomes for the people need to be measured in addition to number transitioned
- explore approaches of other systems in and outside of CT
- How will the transformational plans work through the PRAT process?
- how will the short-term dollars change the long term system

Next meeting is September 20, 2022 at 1:30pm.