



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Elisa F. Velardo
Deputy Commissioner

ARPA Day Services Transformational Committee

12/5/22

Attending: Keith Lavalette, Trevor Rogers, Kathryn du Pree, Jennifer Keatley, Sean Bannon, Alli Smale, Beth Fisher, Cynthia Delouise

Absent: Amber Burke, Beth Katten, Robyn Hescock, Sue Bastien, Varian Salters

1. Review of Public Meeting Requirements-Keith Lavalette
2. Approval of November meeting minutes. Beth Fisher made a motion and Jennifer seconded. The minutes were approved.
3. Strategic Employment Services Planning-Trevor Rogers
 - Has reviewed the recommendations in the past which corresponded to the SELN program findings.
 - Removed the hour limitation for ISE already
 - Looking at identifying roles and responsibilities of different staff groups
 - Looking to make sure meaningful employment goals are reflected in individual plans
 - Financing and Contracting Methods will be reviewed later. Improving process for approving one-time requests
 - Reviewing ACRE employment training and certification
 - Web page redesign underway for employment and day services with n accessible map of existing providers by geographic area
 - Material and presentation development using multi-media platforms to achieve a broader understanding
 - Oversight committee is meeting to develop employment standards, employment data, using QSR process to collect relevant data
 - Transportation committee has been established and is now collecting transportation data. Many stakeholders are on this committee. Working with ARPA assistive technology group
 - Question as to whether this group can interact with the SELN groups. The ARPA groups may be able to assist accomplishing goals especially in terms of resources
 - Question about how marketing materials are being done. As an example, there is specific marketing for employers versus staff, providers or families. DDS now has materials targeted for different stakeholder groups on the website. While materials are helpful, it is important for providers to develop specific relationships with employers.
 - Concern about ACRE training and the costs especially as provider are experiencing so much turnover.
4. Rates and Incentives Sean Bannon
 - SELN work groups recommended streamlining DDS employment incentives

- Effective 10/1/22 there is one uniform rate for employment incentives- \$55 and \$65 per hour. Decreases from nine different rates to these two
 - One year benchmark. Incentive payments added one year to other incremental payments. Less documentation is required.
 - Funds used for individuals to explore work within their career plans. Providers are reimbursed for a completed career plan.
 - Intensive job placement and training, situational job opportunities are paid for
 - Funding incentives if the person transitions to natural supports
 - Discussed employment training incentives for employees and for the backup coverage while the employee trains
 - Materials for both presentations will be sent to the Committee
 - Use average hours worked to calculate the amount of reimbursement.
 - Question of new rates which should be published in January
5. Discussion of Transformational Goals and Outcomes for Day and Employment Services
- Review of day outcomes to increase number of people working, vocational support, day opportunities with medical and behavioral needs, individuals in a transition setting will have the hours of services needs, will increase earnings and community participation involvement
 - Question of whether the plan should include reducing the number of people being paid sub minimum wages
 - Question as to how individuals having increased choices will be measured
6. DDS will not be requiring a transitional plan from providers but are still encouraged. DDS considers the first phase as a pilot.
- There will be a submission period where regions will review those plans that are submitted within designated time periods.
 - In order to get the incentives, a provider will need to submit a plan.
 - Member raised that providers will need to be engaged with the individual and convene the person's team to develop a person centered, individualized plan, rather than a larger more cumbersome provider plan. If the team agrees why is there another approval process?
 - The DDS has determined the regions need to approve the plan to award the ARPA funding. This seems more cumbersome to providers. All providers may not need to restructure as the planning guidelines suggest. DDS indicates some providers may need to restructure of close aspects of their programs.
7. What other resources are needed to move individual's forward to employment?
No one added any other suggestions
8. Deloitte will join out next meeting in December. Keith recommended cancelling the meeting on January 2. We will need to change the 1/16 meeting which s MLK day. The recommendation is to meet on 1/9 and 1/30. The communication consultant will join for us one of the January meetings.
9. Question asked about the future of GSE
- DDS believes GSE is part of the employment continuum
 - DDS would phase in any changes to sub minimum wage over 3-5 years
 - Providers are financially challenged if everyone is paid minimum wage. Concern that some individuals would not have work
10. The next meeting is 12/19 at 4 PM. Jennifer motioned to adjourn and Beth seconded.

