



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Elisa F. Velardo
Deputy Commissioner

Minutes of October 24, 2022 - ARPA Individual and Family Engagement Transformational Committee

Location: Meeting held Virtually via Microsoft Teams

In attendance: Greg McMahon, Shannon Jacovino, Maricruz Ortiz, Joanne Malise, Adrianna Ramirez, Jessica Sundell, Pat Tyler, Lena Esposito, Dr. Cheryl Ellis, Kevin Arce

Guests: Kimberly Butts

Absent: Denise Palladino, Geri Kogut

1. Call to Order by Greg McMahon. Public Meeting Requirements were reviewed.
2. Minutes from previous meetings were approved.
3. MacDowell Communications Group has been chosen as the communications vendor for the ARPA Initiative. One of their roles will be to coordinate the messaging between the Individual & Family Engagement & the DDS Engagement committees. This committee will likely begin to work with them in the next couple of weeks.
4. Presentation: Fostering Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) - Dr. Cheryl Ellis, DDS Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. PowerPoint attached
5. Questions/discussion DEI Presentation:
 - Data from CAMRIS is not an accurate reflection of language and cultural needs. DDS currently only collects this information for individuals the department supports, not their families or guardians who are in many cases the primary decision makers. Also race and language are "optional" sections for data collection and is often left blank. Dr. Ellis is working with the DDS Director of Case Management on reviewing how to improve and enhance language and cultural data collection.
 - Diversity cuts across many domains beyond language and culture, including severity of disability, type of disability, level of education and socio-economic status.
 - A suggestion was made to get input on diversity and inclusion from family perspective.
 - Some parents have cognitive or other disabilities and may or the need for accommodations.
 - System expectations around services and supports is at times in conflict with cultural belief systems. DDS is not always in tune with understanding the cultural aspects.

6. Review ARPA Provider Residential Incentives – Greg McMahon. PowerPoint attached.
7. Question/Discussion Residential Incentives
 - The committee reviewed our charge, goals, and responsibilities.
 - DDS has said that the goal of the ARPA transformation initiative is not to close group homes. While providers are not receiving any financial incentive to close group homes, some may choose to do that as part of their transformation plan.
 - There is currently no financial incentive for Community Companion Homes (CCH). The committee feels there need to be incentives for all options.
 - Deloitte is working on a transformation plan template for providers that will lay out what each agency needs to address in their plans. It will be up to each individual provider to determine what works for them and what they envision for their agency.
 - ARPA funds are not annualized, they are one-time funds, so they cannot be used specifically to provide funding to individuals on the waiting list.
 - Can funds also be used to incentivize self-direction by providing funds for security deposits and funding to set up apartments?
 - A review was done of how goals and objectives were formed for ARPA initiative including reviewing waiver requirements, using information gathered at DDS stakeholder meetings and forums and providing draft incentives to the committees.
 - Suggestion that individuals and families should have input in shaping the approach in the future.
8. Next Meeting: November 7, 2022 10:00am-11:30am
9. Meeting adjourned 11:30 am