



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Elisa F. Velardo
Deputy Commissioner

DRAFT Minutes of August 25, 2022 ARPA Residential Committee Meeting

Location: Meeting held Virtually via Microsoft Teams

In attendance: Peter Mason, Pam Fields, Lori Coughlin, Tammy Venenga, Heather LaTorra, Peter Engelbrecht, Brian Holmes, Mary Pat DeCarlo, Kathy Bobenski, Carly Bobenski

Introductions

Peter Mason and Pam Fields Co- Chairs, called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm.

Topic for Discussion:

Peter Mason read the Public Meeting Requirements

Described the ARPA webpages on the DDS website and how to get there.

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 integrated living setting. Peter encouraged providers to work with DDS on this initiative. Discussed moving the expected outcome of the ARPA initiative in which 100 individuals to move to a more community-based setting for residential and moving 200 Individuals into more community-based day services.

Peter Mason gave a status update on ARPA activities that have been completed to date.

Peter Mason discussed the timelines of the initiative and the importance of completing the expected outcomes by June 30, 2024.

Discussion took place on the various DDS living arrangements.

Peter Mason reviewed a PowerPoint on the draft incentives available to providers in moving individuals from either a Community Living Arrangement (CLA) or Continuous Residential Setting (CRS) into a more community based-based alternative living situation. The committee discussed the incentives.

Other issues discussed included:

- The aging of the individuals supported in the system and future planning
- Development of more specialized Community Companion Homes (CCH)

- How to support individuals living at home in order to provide supports that would enable them to go directly into an alternative residential setting when they do receive residential funding
- Could a transitional housing setting be incentivized?
- Issues with Room and Board payments, mortgages funded through the CT Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA) and ICF homes
- The role of self-determination in the transformation process
- The effect the movement towards more alternative residential setting will have on the waiting list

Pam discussed the meeting times for future meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.