



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Elisa F. Velardo
Deputy Commissioner

DRAFT Minutes of February 21, 2023 ARPA Advisory Committee Meeting

Location: Meeting held Virtually via Microsoft Teams

In attendance: Peter Mason, Keith Lavalette, Tracey Walker, Win Evarts, Katie Banzhaf, Cheryl Ellis, Shannon Jacovino, Brian Smith, Barry Simon, Paige Librandi, Melissa Kremmel, Kathleen Staffer, Michael Beloff, Steven Siegelaub

McDowell attendance- Maura Fitzgerald, Rebecca Brockway

Deloitte attendance- Betsy Bella, Julia Oak

Absent: Greg McMahan, Kate Haaland

Tracey Walker, Chair, called the meeting to order

Tracey Walker read the Public Meeting Requirements

Minutes of the 2/7/2023 Advisory Committee meeting were approved on a motion by Simon/Evarts.

Update from Committee co-chairs

Residential Transformational Committee-

Peter Mason shared that Deloitte presented the results of the State Analysis and Peter gave an update of what issues the committee is looking at and what they want to work on going forward. Peter presented the shared housing model to the committee. Question regarding if the committee is looking at both existing residential options as well as other proposed options. This option is on the committee's list of items to discuss.

Day Transformational Committee – Keith Lavalette stated that no day committee meeting was held. He did state at the March 6th meeting members of the SELN Commission will be present.

Individual/Family Engagement Committee: No meeting was held

DDS Engagement Committee: McDowell presented to the committee, working through how to work with case managers. The family survey was discussed and family members asked that they work with the DDS committee to assist with the next survey. Cres Secchiaoli, Regional Director is going to be the new co-chair for this committee along with Princess Russell. The committee will meet on a regular basis with McDowell and the Individual and Family Committee to make sure communication is consistent.

Deloitte Presentation: Julia Oak and Betsy Bella provided an update on the status of their Technical Assistance sessions. Starting in early February, Deloitte started hosting recurring office hours for providers to attend. Deloitte was available to answer questions and (one on one) TA sessions. At this point they have hosted 4 one

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to one sessions with providers. Many of the questions being asked are related to the timelines of the project, if individuals served change during the process and a number of questions regarding the budget sheets. They clarified that plans may be submitted for work that is already in progress. Deloitte is developing a FAQ to help providers with some clarity as well as inform them of the questions being received.

McDowell Communication Consulting: Maura Fitzgerald gave an update on the newsletter as well as an introduction to STEP – Supporting Transformation to Empower People. STEP is to become the more public and , family phase of the ARPA initiative. It embodies the supports and services and the plan moving forward. The newsletter is now complete and provides a broad overview of the ARPA initiatives. It will be sent to all individuals, providers, and DDS staff. STEP was created in response to feedback the name Moving On was confusing. McDowell is finishing up on a communication plan for the next six months and received the results of the family survey that will establish a baseline of knowledge of the ARPA initiative.

The question was asked what happens when feedback from this committee is received? Deloitte responded that the input received is playing a key role in the identifying the next steps DDS can take and also identifying for DDS leadership the recommendations coming from this group as well as other research.

Review of the items from previous meetings included:

- he rent subsidy and HUD guidelines are included in what the residential committee will be working on.
- Part of Deloitte’s contract includes training for agencies as people move into less restrictive settings.
- TABLED: Peter Mason’s presentation on Shared Housing and Related Parties
- The lack of support for the interim incentives from the provider perspective was discussed. It was clarified that providers may utilize one times for items not funded through the incentives (ie, a job developer position to help find employment for additional people) that can go hand and hand with the incentives.
- DDS has been working with McDowell Communications on providing information for people on how different types of funding may be combined to fund a plan.
- Discussion on the rates and if anyone has received follow up from the last meeting. The ARC of Eastern CT shared their current situation and will be meeting with DDS about insufficient funds. The ICFs are still a big question as their rates have not been increased. The committee was reminded that the ICF’s are funded through DSS. DDS has been having discussions with DSS on the issue of ICF’s.
- DDS is resubmitting the Appendix K to CMS to include the ARPA initiatives. . The Appendix K is basically the description and approval from CMS. This revision will need to go through the entire waiver revision process.

Other:

- Since response has been slower than anticipated, DDS is considering adding incentives such as incentive payments to cover the costs of creating the plan.
- The rewarding Work website for families in need of staff will launch in March.
- Assistive Technology (AT) grants are available for agencies and individuals. There is an AT conference planned for the end of June and an AT camp will be held at Camp Harkness.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2023, at 1:30pm.