



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Elisa F. Velardo
Deputy Commissioner

DRAFT Minutes of February 7, 2023 ARPA Advisory Committee Meeting

Location: Meeting held Virtually via Microsoft Teams

In attendance: Peter Mason, Keith Lavalette, Tracey Walker, Greg McMahon, Win Evarts, Katie Banzhaf, Cheryl Ellis, Shannon Jacovino, Brian Smith, Kate Haaland, Barry Simon, Paige Librandi, Melissa Kremmel, Kathleen Staffer

DDS staff- Scott McWilliams CFO

Deloitte attendance- Betsy Bella, Julia Oak

Absent: Michael Beloff, Steven Siegelau

Peter Mason, Chair, called the meeting to order

Peter Mason read the Public Meeting Requirements

Minutes of the 1/10/2022 Advisory Committee meeting were approved on a motion by Evarts/Banzhaf with two abstentions.

Rate Discussion: The committee met with Scott McWilliams to discuss the recently released rates and Scott answered questions regarding the rates, concern about the rates and impact on wage increases, ICF group home issues and specific issues regarding individual agencies. Discussion included the challenges of running programs without any increases in the A&G components going on seventeen years.

Deloitte Presentation: Deloitte presented on the current state assessment, the purpose of the report was to collect information and leading practices about HCBS transformations, information on promising practices to service delivery, how to motivate change and ideas and how DDS can best support stakeholders through this process. The report focused on five states including Arkansas, Delaware, Maine, Missouri and Pennsylvania.

Questions were received regarding this report, concerns were raised that what DDS needs to do for system transformation were not included in the report. Providers were looking for clear and robust recommendations. Deloitte also gave a brief overview of the stakeholder sessions. Deloitte held six stakeholder sessions prioritizing new voices that were not already involved in ARPA committees. Stakeholder sessions were held for providers, one for residential, one for day, individuals and families, DDS case managers as well as self-advocates coordinators. The sessions were held to collect additional qualitative feedback as well as pressure test some of the findings in the report. Themes in these sessions included challenges around transportation, lack of affordable, assessable housing as well as the workforce crises. There was a clear sense of importance to continue individualization of supports and the need for flexibility within the system.

Update from Committee co-chairs

Residential Transformational Committee-

Peter Mason shared that the committee discussed shared housing. The department has a program called shared living in which there is coordination between providers, individuals and families. Issues included related party transactions and its applicability if families are going to purchase the home, rules of living together and if a lease is involved. Committee would like to see if the department could do trainings on this topic on a broader scale.

Day Transformational Committee – Keith Lavalette provided the committee summary including:

Ellen Econs from DMHAS presented to the committee. She discussed the IPS evidence-based model for employment. Discussed the training provided to employment specialist called Three CVup of Tea. Briefly talked about the BRS system, the clubhouse program and how DMHAS works with those programs. Deloitte also presented the current state review.

Individual/Family Engagement Committee: Greg McMahon summarized their last meeting. Deloitte met with the committee on the state review, committee was excited over some of the concepts from other states. Trying to encourage creativity and reduce regulation whenever possible. Working on coming up with a clear template for describing each of the supports and services that are funded through the department so individuals and families have a clear idea of services.

DDS Engagement Committee: Cres Secchiaoli, regional director is going to be the new co-chair for this committee. The Committee is working on getting more information to case managers. The communication consultant is developing a newsletter that is designed to assist case managers but will be sent to everyone including providers, individuals, families and DDS staff.

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