State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Elisa F. Velardo
Deputy Commissioner

ARPA DAY COMMITTEE MEETING
January 23, 2023

In Attendance: Trever Rogers, Beth Fisher, Cynthia DeLouise, Jennifer Keatley, Amber Carter, Varian Salters, Keith Lavalette, Kathryn du Pree, Sean Bannon,
Betsy Bella and Julia Oakes from Deloitte

Minutes
Cynthia DeLouise made a motion to approve the minutes and Amber seconded, minutes approved

Deloitte Update
- Held six feedback sessions for providers and families, including 20 providers in each session
- Partnered with the Alliance and the ARC to identify providers
- Also met with Self Advocates and Case Managers
- Themes- challenges with staffing and transportation
- Issues raised about the transition process from schools to adult services-families may have different expectations because of the educational program focus
- Need for flexibility and individualization
- One creative idea is an Employment Club that links peers
- Need options for people who do not want to work. The importance of social connections must be acknowledged
- Importance of local connections and networking
- 4 individuals for day services and 8 families for the day sessions
- Providers are not hearing that individual and families are hearing about this, but Case Management is reaching out to families
- Surveys were only sent to guardians or individuals who are their own guardians because the department indicated guardians would need to give permission to send the survey The Chair was asked to have this reviewed for a legal interpretation
- The recommendation was made to possibly hold more forums for families and individuals or other methods to seek and receive this input. The Committee is concerned that very few people participated and that is problematic. The system needs to continue to reach out.
- Outreach for the forums went out through social media
- The sessions were conducted during the day. It was recommended that some sessions be offered in the evening
- 25 providers, 10 from North, 12 from the South 3 from the West Regions have applied to participate. Deloitte is offering technical assistance
- Concern that the template suggests more change or reorganization then some providers may envision doing. The intention is not to require that programs be eliminated.
- Phase 1 is a learning opportunity and changes will be made for Phase 2 based on Phase 1 feedback and experiences

ARPA Initiatives

- 25 agencies of which 12 want to start immediately. All have been sent the template
- Regional staff have been trained
- Most agencies chose 1 or 2 programs. One provider wants to transform their entire agency
- DDS is changing the policy for the rent subsidy program to offset some of the concerns about people's available income
- A newsletter will go out quarterly
- Deloitte is learning from best practices of 5 different states.
- AT has been put in the Respite Centers and Self Advocates will be doing peer to peer training on AT and will fund providers to become certified in AT
- NOO to be issues for housing that is not project based
- Using critical incidents to quality performance measures
- Question of the timing of ARPA funds availability for AT. It is a rolling grant so available until the end of the calendar year.

Future Topics

- GSE will be scheduled for a future meeting
- Maybe bring employers in to learn of what this initiative is
- Presentation on best practices form other states
- See the proposals form the provider community
- DMHAS has an evidence-based employment system. Ellen Econs could speak about DMHAS and its partnership with BRS.
- CT APSE could present also

Next Meeting

February 6th 4 PM

Jennifer Keatley made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Beth Fischer