



State of Connecticut Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner
Elisa F. Velardo
Deputy Commissioner

ARPA DAY COMMITTEE MEETING February 6, 2023

In Attendance: Beth Fisher, Cynthia DeLouise, Jennifer Keatley, Amber Carter, Varian Salters, Keith Lavalette, Kathryn Dupree, Sean Bannon, Jennifer Keatley, Beth Suleski, Alli Smale, Ellen Econs (DMHAS) Betsy Bella and Julia Oakes (Deloitte).

Minutes

ARPA Day Committee Meeting was called to order at 4:06 PM by Keith Lavalette, Committee Chairperson. A motion was made by Varian Salters to accept the minutes from the January 23, 2023 ARPA Day Committee Meeting and duly seconded by Amber Carter seconded. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

Presentation: Supported Employment Services In Connecticut

Presenter: Ellen Econs from Department of Mental Health an Addiction Services (DMHAS)

Presentation Highlights:

- **Commissioner's Client Employment to Recovery Policy:**
 - Employment Services are integral to the DMHAS' goal of offering a recovery-oriented system of care.
 - For many people, employment facilitates improvements in one's quality of life
 - Employment is inextricably linked to recovery Employment and education cannot be separated from the DMHAS treatment system in planning, systems design, funding, monitoring and staffing
 - DMHAS currently funds employment in 20 agencies statewide (26 teams) providing IPS services to individuals with mental health conditions, 3 agencies focusing on providing employment services to individuals with Substance Use Disorders Issues raised about the transition process from schools to adult services-families may have different expectations because of the educational program focus
 - DMHAS Supported Employment Providers follow the Individual Placement and Support Model (One creative idea is an Employment Club that links peers
 - The IPS Learning Collaborative assists Employment providers to learn about best practices internationally
 - The IPS model has demonstrated the most effectiveness in supporting the employment goals of adults with severe mental illness/substance use
 - Individuals using IPS have better employment outcomes
- **IPS Fidelity Review**
 - A fidelity scale is a tool to measure the level of implementation of the evidence-based practice. The IPS Supported Employment Fidelity Scale defines the critical ingredients of IPS in order to differentiate between programs that have fully implemented the model and those that have not.

- **Collaboration with BRS**

- There is expected collaboration between Employment Specialists and BRS counselors that they have frequent, regular meetings to discuss shared individuals and identify potential referrals.

- **Community Based Services**

- Employment Specialists spend 65% of their time in the community for purposes of meeting people where they feel comfortable, job developing, etc.

Deloitte Presentation By: (Betsy Bella and Julia Oakes)

- Introduction & Background
 - The existing system of intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) home and community-based services (HCBS) in Connecticut and identifies efforts in other states to innovate in the I/DD HCBS space. The review includes existing policies, service delivery, and reimbursement methodology with an emphasis on transformational initiatives.
- Research Framework & Approach
 - A total of 12 states were identified as potential candidates for the Current State Review in consultation with DDS and national experts.
- Overview of Key Considerations and Recommendations of the following themes:
 - **Individuals who Receive Services as the Primary Focus**
 - **Residential Supports**
 - **Employment Supports**
 - **Provider Engagement**
 - **Assistive Technology and Remote Supports**
 - **Payment Methodologies**
- Research and high-level findings from other states were shared with Committee Members included the HCBS Waivers, ARPA Efforts and Spend Plan, Residential Services, Adult Day Supports, Employment Supports, Assistive Technology and Remote Supports, Payment Methodologies and Benefits Counseling.

Future Topics

- GSE will be scheduled for a future meeting
- Presentation on best practices from other states
- CT APSE

Next Meeting

March 6th 4:00 PM

There was no motion to adjourn the meeting however the meeting concluded at 5:36 PM with closing remarks by Keith Lavalette, Committee Chairperson.

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