



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

ARPA DDS Engagement Committee
Minutes for March 22, 2023

Location: Meeting Held Virtually via Microsoft Teams

In attendance: Princess Russell-Raynor, Co-Chair; Cres Secchiaroli Co-Chair; Peter Mason; Yana Razumnaya; Marina Derman; Shannon McCormick; Sherri Knightly; Dawn DeMatteo; Gunnar Abrahamsson; Claudine Testani; Wayne Seidel; Deloitte (Betsy Bella and Julia Oak).

Absent: Lauren Gray; Kevin Bronson

Introductions

Co-Chair, calls the meeting to order at 11:02 am

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes – n/a

Announcements - none

Topics for discussion:

- a) ARPA Updates (Peter Mason) discussed-
 - Amendments to Appendix K including incentives for:
 - Submission and approval of transformational plan.
 - Adding Outcome Payments for day services (restructuring/transformations from congregate settings from DSO up to more independent or employment based settings, referrals from emergency list, transition from sub-minimum to minimum wage and more).
 - Accepting referrals from our emergency list; individuals with more significant medical/behavioral needs; this includes outcome payments accepting referrals for both day and residential services.
 - National Core Indicator (NCI) incentivize survey completion. Use data to identify trends, changes, improvement areas, satisfaction, quality etc., which will inform how to further incentivize and transform, while pinpointing areas around the state needing more services/support.
 - Assistive Technology and Employment Development services (Customized Employment/Individual Supported Employment staff training/certification.
 - Rewarding Work website which is for individuals who self direct their resources to advertise, and qualified staff are able to post their resumes. This will help match people up in terms of working opportunities. Improvements continue with progress, and delays being worked through.
 - Assistive Tech grants issued and applications submitted from individuals, families, and providers.

- Assistive Tech RFP issued – looking for an agency to assign role of providing evaluations, recommendations, and managing installation/training of AT.
 - All other previous updates on efforts continue and we are pleased with progress.
- b) McDowell Communications – **not present** (working on filming videos at this time).
Notes below added from previous committee meeting minutes 3/8/23:
- First newsletter rolled out.
 - Discussed long term transformational design called S.T.E.P. – Supporting Transformation to Empower People will be included in next newsletter.
 - 7 Videos in development; filming begins in March.
 - Master communications plan/calendar reviewed.
- c) Deloitte Consultants discussed-
- Updates, feedback and progress - further refinement of educational materials draft outline presented previously to committee. Communication/collaboration continues behind the scenes with stakeholders, DDS/Regional Leadership, and McDowell for input and to align messaging. Once DDS selects the transformational model we will be able to finalize.
 - Reviewed updated slides draft of educational materials outlined. Working on FAQ.
 - Requested continuous feedback for input to inform overall framework and messaging.
- d) Divisional Communication- continue progress.
- e) Action Steps – Provide feedback/input to inform stakeholder messaging and communication efforts.
- McDowell – communication plan/calendar, newsletter, videos.
 - Deloitte – Transformation Educational Materials/Outline.
- f) Future Agenda Items
- Guest Presentation on Residential Incentives
 - Updates on strategies and coordination around regional staff updates.

Announcement of Next Meeting

Wednesday, April 5, 11:00 am

Adjournment - 11:55 am