



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Elisa F. Velardo
Deputy Commissioner

Minutes of March 6, 2023 - ARPA Individual and Family Engagement Transformational Committee

Location: Meeting held Virtually via Microsoft Teams

In attendance: Shannon Jacovino, Adrianna Ramirez, Jessica Sundell, Dr. Cheryl Ellis, Kevin Arce, Geri Kogut, Denise Palladino, Maricruz Ortiz, Joanne Malise, Lena Esposito

Absent: Greg McMahan,

Guests: Maura Fitzgerald (McDowell Communications), Owen Shome (Deloitte), Lauren Gray (DDS), Kimberly Butts

- Meeting called to order 10:04am
- Review of meeting guidelines
- Review minutes from last meeting
 - Approved Denise and Jessica
- McDowell- Maura Fitzgerald to give updates- plan, communication and employment newsletter
 - Survey results from family
 - Set a baseline where people's attitude and knowledge
 - A year later same people will be surveyed with same questions to see where communication moved
 - Mailed out to over 9100 individuals/guardians- 1350 mail respondents and 352 online respondents
 - 88% hadn't heard anything and 12% had
 - Great opportunity to make a difference
 - Initial attitudes towards Moving On- 46% like, 33% not sure, 15% dislike
 - Attitudes towards plan's benefits- 27% would benefit, 23% not sure, 24% no benefit
 - Attitudes towards plan's goal- 22% improve, 35% not sure, 26% improve little, 14% greatly worsen
 - Attitude optimism about the plan- 52% agreed will provide opportunities, 23% disagreed, 25% unsure
 - Attitude skepticism about the plan- 31% could be bad, 36% not sure, 33% disagreed
 - Attitude toward plan's of greater independence- 22% agreed, 35% unsure, 26% improve a little, 14% greatly worsen
 - Member asked if there were any qualitative
 - Maura yes there were a few openended questions that were provided to DDS and can be provided to this committee in excel format
 - 72% felt better about the plan that it was individualized and not broad, 28% not sure
 - Maura- there is a lot of opportunity/room to educate people and get them excited about the plan.
- Newsletter- first edition
 - Mailed out to 10,000 in English and available in Spanish using qr code on website

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- To introduce the transformation plan
- Next newsletter in May to send every other month
- Supporting Transformation to Empower People (STEP)
 - DDS mission, values, goals
 - Outlive current ARPA funding
 - Encompass AT, supports, other services to transition to more independence
 - Received feedback that Moving On was confusing for people and decided to change to STEP, taking the first step, step forward or step back
- Communications Plan
 - 6 month communication plan include matrix and calendar
 - Goals, tactics, channels, timing, need to accomplish task and description
 - 1st task of developing DDS success stories, begin with SACs
 - Goal is to work a month ahead
- Member asked 4th Tuesday forum where individuals have already shared their stories would be beneficial to begin with them
- Maura build up a library of these stories, not just aiming for 2-3 a month
- Member asked about stipend for the families to do the activities. Will Deaf/HoH be included and services provided in Spanish as well.
- Maura everything doing in English and Spanish.
- Member asked Move question about stipend to DDS.
- McDowell was asked to join all meetings to keep committee updated
- Deloitte- Owen to do update
 - There is no update
- Deloitte will be regular agenda item in case there are updates
- Program descriptions
- Member added definition not currently all encompassing maybe less is more.
- Member added there are more types or are there categories
- Member added their suggestions of broader categories
- Member and how individual supports fit in
- Member added about definitions
- Member added confusing that it is confusing “wherever they live.”
- Member added yes confusing that not available in institution such as nursing facility or group home
- Member added categories is good because supports general
- Member added categories can be standard possible and be used as a comparison
- Member added outlining categories and defining supports
- Member added in coordination with services and lay out what categories are can do not do; such as natural supports; clustered and supported housing difficult to understand; using stories in describing different services.
- Member this is to give general information to provide info for families to discuss further with case management; how much information is enough to get started to have a conversation
- Member added all supports that DDS provide are community centered
- Member added categories for different budget
- Member added flowchart on budgets
- Member added upfront talk about statement about residential support
- Member can add in the definition which budget it belongs to
- Member added what does DDS have when a parent is trying to apply to get into a group home, case manager the child has to meet the limits of in-home supports; parents may be struggling with children that are aggressive;

- Take information offline
- Member added to add residential vs day as part of all definitions to help parents defining differences.
- Next item- no suggestions
- Announced next meeting March 20th @ 10am
- Meeting adjourned @11:16am