



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Elisa F. Velardo
Deputy Commissioner

Minutes of June 5, 2023 - ARPA Individual and Family Engagement Transformational Committee

Location: Meeting held Virtually via Microsoft Teams

In attendance: Greg McMahon, Shannon Jacovino, Dr. Cheryl Ellis, Kevin Arce, Geri Kogut, Jessica Sundell, Denise Palladino, Lena Esposito

Absent: Pat Tyler, Adrianna Ramirez, Maricruz Ortiz, Lena Esposito, Joanne Malise

Guests: Kimberly Butts, Lauren Gray (DDS), Patricia Cymbala (DDS), Owen Shome (Deloitte)

1. Call to order by Greg McMahon. Public meeting requirements were reviewed.
2. Minutes from previous meeting were approved.
3. DDS AT & Me Overview -Patricia Cymbala, DDS Director of Assistive Technology (presentation attached)
4. Communications Update – Lauren Gray, DDS Communications
 - Information about AT & Me Conference and registration is on the DDS website. The conference is free for individuals supported by DDS and their families
 - Information about STEP is at ct.gov/STEP
 - A review of the final Supported Housing fact sheet was done. It will also be translated into Spanish
 - The goal is to release fact sheets on DDS support options as one time within the next 2 weeks on the website. They will also be included in the September newsletter
 - DDS is updating social media more often, which is something that was recommended by this committee
 - There was a suggestion to add the sign up for e updates to the STEP page
 - DDS, as part of a statewide initiative, is working on a website modernization project. This will most likely be done by August.
 - A committee member asked is DDS planned to add a calendar of community meetings and advocacy meetings. Unfortunately, there is not calendar function on the webpage to do that, but there will be a page for upcoming DDS events.
5. Deloitte Update – Deloitte will be conducting trainings for DDS staff and providers.
6. The Committee reviewed the STEP Supported Housing video.
 - Overall, the committee thought the video was very well done.
 - A question was asked about whether other videos would include people of color sharing their stories. Hoping to see some diversity.

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- Counselors under the “How can I learn more section.

7. Updates and Topics for future meetings - None identified.

8. Announcement of next meeting- Monday, June 26, 2023 10:00 am.

9. Adjournment.