



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Elisa F. Velardo
Deputy Commissioner

Minutes of January 5, 2023

ARPA Residential Committee Meeting Location: Meeting held Virtually via Microsoft Teams

In attendance: Peter Mason, Pam Fields, Peter Engelbrecht, Brian Holmes, Mary Pat DeCarlo, , Heather LaTorra, Tammy Venenga, Lori Coughlin, Rebecca Brockway, McDowell Communications; Ken Giannotti guest speaker from Marrakesh

Absent: Jaymie Nedinsky, Kathy Bobenski, Carly Bobenski,, Kathy Calo

Introductions Peter Mason, called the meeting to order at 2:07 pm.

Peter reviewed the rules for public meetings

The minutes from December 15th were reviewed with the following changes: Brian Holmes was absent; A motion was made by Brian to accept the meeting minutes and a second was made by Heather LaTorra – motion carried.

1. Presentation by Heather LaTorra and Ken Giannotti, Marrakesh. CLA Apartment Program

- Heather explained her CLA program was in an apartment building with 6 apartments,
 - Ken was one of the first people to live there in 1987, he was trained in person centered planning, he did not want to live in a group home. They had to do some extra training for staff on Ken’s right to choices, like hanging posters of women up in his apartment. Ken has been employed at Stop and Shop for 35 years. He would not ride in the Marrakesh van that beeped when it backed up. Kenny then went through travel training for public transportation; Ken also did not want the overnight staff in his apartment, which led to a discussion with the head of licensing at DDS. Ken refused to participate in fire drills and received a waiver not to do so. (it was noted that when there was a fire, Ken was the first one out) Ken eventually moved into his own apartment and chooses his own staff and depends on natural supports. He was married in 1999.
 - Lori asked if the CLA was 24 hours – and Heather explained about the alone time and staff leaving the area for tasks.
 - Mary Pat mentioned that IPP had a similar set up in Middletown and questioned whether DDS would license this type of setting as a CLA; Tammy commented that DDS would not license this type of setting in this day and age.
 - Peter M explained that there was no other way to fund such a setting at that time. Now it may be a hard call and would probably only be considered for people who have significant needs. CMS may also question these settings.
 - One member mentioned that parents may want a licensed setting, Tammy stated as a parent she would not want a licensed setting and Brian and Lori both agreed.
 - Brian stated his daughter does not want staff all the time
 - Tammy mentioned creating a college type setting and Pam mentioned Leslie University in Massachusetts has a 2 year college program for people with IDD.

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- It was mentioned Chapel Haven and Vista are very similar however at these locations the people tend to stay in the area or at the site whereas in college they move on. Mary Pat mentioned that they stay because that is where they are comfortable and where they made connections. There are pros and cons
 - Peter mentioned that they do not qualify for waiver services since it is not a per person cost (it is a yearly cost).
 - Since that time Marrakesh has purchased apartments in another building. These apartments do not have time limits, however, people move to their own apartments from there and some as they age move back into 24 hour settings. This program has 3 CLA licenses 2-2person and 1 – 1person; there is one staff on for 5 people however each person has alone time so the staff may leave the site for errands etc..
 - Peter M then discussed the transition piece including people having their own place; services are designed around them;
 - Lori works at a school they have a two year transition program for students who are deaf. She stated it is always a challenge when they move back home and have to rebuild connections.
 - Tammy stated that there must be good transition services when people move to a different community.
2. Presentation by Rebecca Brockway, McDowell Communications
 - There was a survey created in Spanish and English it was sent out last SAT/MON to 9200 people with a cover letter. The survey has 15 questions and states that if you are filling it out for a person with IDD please answer for them.
 - The Survey was also sent to Case Managers at DDS so they are aware and can encourage people to fill them out.
 - Peter E asked if it was a targeted survey and Rebecca responded that yes it was for individuals who live and work in congregate settings.
 - Rebecca stated it was sent to Residential/Guardian (the primary contact person for the individual with IDD)
 - Mary Pat asked if something was going out to providers; Peter stated that maybe we can send something to all providers about the survey and include the survey in the correspondence
 - Rebecca stated they will give updates following the survey and have a follow up survey after messaging is created.
 - Peter M talked about doing testimonials and trying to get the work out to families and individuals with IDD on different places people can live.
 3. Pam and Peter spoke about Peter using the issues lists from families and providers and converting them to frequently asked questions. This has been delayed with the holidays but will happen in the next couple months.
 4. Transformation Plan implementation is in the process and once the initial reviews happen there will be recommendations
 - a. 22 agencies submitted and 11 of those agencies said they wanted to start immediately
 - b. DDS Staff will be trained next week
 - c. A copy of the template was sent to the providers
 - d. Deloitte will reach out to the 11 to ascertain why they are unsure and what DDS can help to move the process along

- e. Most of the applications were from the North and South regions with only one coming from the West.
 - f. Most agencies chose 1 or 2 programs while one agency chose their entire agency
 - g. This first phase is a learning phase
5. Heather talked about the new rates that were just sent out and wanted to know what the documented LON rates were for each person and is there a way for providers to get an updated list. It was mentioned to put the LON rates on the CSA authorization spreadsheet
 6. There was a discussion about the new rates and will everyone be brought to the LON; if people are above the LON how will that be handled;
 - a. A provider mentioned that Day is close but residential is not. There were deals made before the LON's and providers are concerned if those deals are going to be honored. Tammy mentioned that these people should have gone to URR for lifetime approval
 - b. Tammy mentioned that everyone will go to LON except those at URR; Tammy stated she can get a list of the life-time URR approvals per provider; and those with URR and current approval Status. Tammy mentioned that they use the behavioral LON score if it is higher.
 - c. Peter M mentioned that DDS is working on a new case management system (current one is CAMRIS). Providers will be able to access this system themselves and get all the info they need. DDS is also working on tying this system into an authorization system.
 - d. When the providers were asking Scott questions about the rates, he could not answer the questions.
 - e. The providers mentioned that they were analyzing how the rates fall out and how it will effect their agency.
 7. Peter talked about rent subsidy and that DDS is changing the policy. Currently the calculations are done on 45% of the income and DDS is looking to change it to 30% to offset some of the concerns with money.
 8. Peter M talked about communications and a letter will be going out to families
 - a. There are going to be stakeholder forums with 20 – 25 people per session; groups will be spread between the Arc and the Alliance (it will not be open to people already participating in the ARPA committees). There will be break-out sessions. DDS will not be participating; They are seeking families and individuals so let's all try to get the word out
 9. DDS Engagement committee will be putting out a newsletter, it is targeted to DDS staff to keep them up to date and it is not clear at this time if it will also go to others.
 10. Deloitte is doing an analysis on 5 other states (Maine, Penn, Arkansas, Missouri and Delaware) CT is one of the leaders in the country and we are looking for pieces of best practices from these different states. Deloitte should have an analysis by the end of January.
 11. There is another round of technology grants coming out for families and providers
 12. DDS has put AT in the respite centers to help people with IDD get acclimated to using technology.
 13. DDS is starting a Project AT and Me where Self advocates will do peer to peer training. Those participating would get a back pack with some various items of assistive technology.
 14. DDS is working on training providers and DD Staff on AT Certification Training
 15. Rewarding Work contract for self-hires was executed on December 1st. A revised website should be up and running on March 1st.
 16. NOO will be coming out to expand supportive housing that is not project based

17. Critical incidents – Pulse Light working to provide more data and matching Medicare claims to DDS critical incident reports
18. Tammy asked if there was a list of Community locations such as psyc/afterschool. It was recommended that Tammy contact Dawn Lambert at DDS.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m. Next meeting date January 19, 202. Minutes submitted by Pam Fields