



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Elisa F. Velardo
Deputy Commissioner

Minutes of February 16, 2023
ARPA Residential Transformational Committee Meeting

Location: Meeting held Virtually via Microsoft Teams

In attendance: Peter Mason, Pam Fields, Peter Engelbrecht, Heather LaTorra, Lori Coughlin, Kathy Bobenski, Carly Bobenski, Kathy Calo, Brian Holmes, Mary Pat DeCarlo

Guest: Julia Oak & Betsy Bella - Deloitte;

Absent: Jaymie Nedinsky, Tammy Venenga,

Introductions Peter Mason, called the meeting to order at 2:06 pm.

Peter reviewed the rules for public meetings

The minutes from January 19th - Lori made a motion and Brian 2nd to accept the minutes; One spelling correction was made & added Brian to attendance and the motion carried; February 2, 2023 were reviewed with the following changes: Added those absent and guests; Brian made a motion to accept the minutes with the changes, Peter 2nd the motion and the motion carried

Update by Betsy and Julia from Deloitte

SLIDE PRESENTATION Moving on Current state review highlights

Purpose to collect information on transformation in other states and how it can impact CT's transformation.

Executive summary, relevant information & findings, appendix

It focused on 5 states and CT; emphasis on Transformation

CT is a leader when it comes to IDD services

There is already flexibility

Report focuses on how to offer more choice based on lessons learned in other states

Reviewed highlighted leading practices from the slide presentation pg. 6-8

Currently working with DDS to refine the results based on survey results. It will highlight transformations and tools.

Pam stated the report was good

Kathy B stated you get to see what the other states were doing, it was very interesting to see

Peter mentioned a couple areas that DDs is already following up on – benefit coordinators, and waiver one-time funding for moving in

Pam also mentioned on page 57 apt tenancy

Brian spoke about waiver flexibility –little confused on moving expenses;

Peter M stated we can do up to 3,000, after reading this report it looks like we can expand and make it permanent

Betsy showed the list that some states provide for move in

Heather, talks about everything we are doing and questions if it is it all ARPA initiatives.

Peter said we are using ARPA funds to start some of these initiatives; and if they show they are successful we will continue. A lot you are seeing we are using ARPA \$ to incentivize the new areas. Throwing out a lot with

AT and housing to see how it works. Our goal is to give as much support to providers and decide which ones to keep going

Heather, good to hear, worried about buckets of money.

Peter M Need to go back when we started, have a short time, get approval from CMS; May have more money in some areas than others. Extend things through ARPA and look at what we can extend after. Put an initiative out without a dollar amount. We may need to close at the end of year and start next year.

Heather, Problems with landlords suing, there are expenses that are not in our control and are not allowable anywhere else. To continue with shared living, we need to figure out how to cover those costs. Happy the report covered ICF's, keeps the door open.

Peter, conversations about it. ICF's is DSS money; if they are converted DDS would need to get the entire % of revenue, the money portion is the issue

Peter speaking as a retiree, look at ICF's make sure they are funded properly and make them the medical model. Less needs and behavioral needs would go back onto DDS.

Carly, comment on the employment, I really like ideas of employment clubs.

Peter explaining that people get the full LON amount which might allow funding for these employment clubs

Kathy B as a parent I did not know about the employment leadership program; Carlee is in DSO and does some employment.

Peter M we have an employment NOO to create own businesses and issuing RFP to assist people if they need AT to go along with it

Pam it was in the report about drop in centers. Providers in CT are looking at that type of place that is fully integrated

Betsy, wen heather talked about everything happening at once, all these notices of opportunities; even though money may be in separate areas does not mean we cannot use them together

DDS Progress

Peter M: started holding office hours for providers who have shown interest in looking at the plan; looking a posting Plan and Guide on website; so, everyone will be able to see it.

Betsy: They have been meeting with providers- office hours – a virtual group meeting and getting feedback.... technical assistance office hours....to address some of the confusion; some excitement; some questions especially budget spreadsheet; looking to be more flexible with that; lots of general questions in the sessions; and people joining to listen in. taking questions back to DDS for clarification and documenting so providers will have access to all of it.

Peter what is interesting; peter attends most meetings, peter receives more negative; and people are starting to move forward, great to hear. Some of the analysis we heard from individuals and fam committee like the non-monetary recognition. Advisory committee was disappointed and thought it should have been more DDS CT based. Also had feedback sessions and have a draft and will be sending out executive report. Have surveys back. Total of 1350 sent in mail 350 sent back on line. Trying to gage where people are right now. do it again in December to see difference. Only 12% came back. A lot of talk about the moving on plan. Some were aware thought it was beneficial some thought it would not at all. The scary thing when asked how they wanted to receive info said they wanted it in the mail. Its expensive, we will do it for awhile but need to build up our email list. We sent it out in English and Spanish. Some family not happy with survey. Want to develop next survey.

We are doing videos of supports. Remote support, housing, competitive employment, AT. To get the word out on new supports

AT training certificate program for DDS staff sending it out to providers soon. Have AT grants out for individuals' families and providers.

AT conference 3rd week of June in Cromwell. Proceeded by summer camp for AT Tech Camp at camp Harkness with a demo cabin. Not project based housing NOO.

Kathy B How do you go about getting an assessment, Carly needs an assessment

Peter stated he would help her with the process.

Peter Mason time line where we are at Deloitte has finished research and analysis, report middle of march, DDs will review and determine next steps and what recommendations to approve now and at the long term then moving to phase 2 talk about rebranding this. It is not just ARPA initiative it will go on long term
Put meeting times for two weeks. There are other pieces we need to look at. And after that we will be hearing the Deloitte plan.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m. Next meeting date March 2, 2023. Minutes submitted by Pam Fields