



State of Connecticut  
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont  
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff  
Commissioner

Elisa F. Velardo  
Deputy Commissioner

ARPA Residential Transformational Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
5/25/23  
2pm-3:30pm

1. Attendance: Peter M. Peter E, Pam F, Lori S, Tammy V, Heather L, Kathy B, Betsy B (Deloitte)
2. Welcome by Pam Fields
3. Overview of rules for public meeting by Pam Fields – announce yourself and your title prior to speaking.
4. Approval of last month's meeting minutes – Lori stated there was a lot of good information. Heather made a motion to approve and Kathy Calo 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, the motion carried.
5. Deloitte Update
  - Betsy Belle from Deloitte gave the update.
    - i. 15 Residential plans submitted (day and res); have not reviewed them all at this time. We are focusing on the Residential plans; Largest transition includes 11 settings; plans will be person centered; adding remote supports and assistive technology including trials. She gave several examples including transition models and supportive housing models.
    - ii. Day plans are also coming through shifting from non-vocation to vocation.
    - iii. There are training courses in June and technical assistance available and open for everyone.
    - iv. Info session held in May - DDS Staff, Case Managers/resource Managers; Providers; on the provider gateway in case people want to see it – Reviewed the evaluation surveys from the sessions.
    - v. Pam asked if the data for CM for Strong Disagreement and they are overseeing supports for people with IDD; will there be a choice for families to have another CM; Peter chimed in and said he would bring that back to DDS for discussion.
    - vi. Lori asked about client numbers, Peter chimed in and said he is excited about the variances in the plans and that they are unique, and the process is driven by the individual and the provider and are truly transformational. DDS is

working through a lot of issues around the plans, rates and approval letters and details of plans – he went into a detailed discussion on the operations of a transition house and that goals and expectations are clearly defined for all; Also discussed about systematic changes that would need to be made.

#### 6. McDowell Update – Peter gave update

- June newsletter coming out next week – families will be getting it next week or the following week, if family members can let Peter know if they receive it. Brian let him know they received the last one; there is a supplement for private providers of the newsletter so they can get it before the families in case there are any questions.
- Working on videos, have a couple done, some are still in draft – Peter shared one video.
- At Conference coming up on June 22<sup>nd</sup>; Peter shared about the conference.

#### FAQ's review

- Heather suggested an all-inclusive list of initiatives or sources of income may be helpful to list on the FAQ sheet such as:
  - i. Assistive and Remote Technology Services
  - ii. Supportive housing options non-projected based
  - iii. incentives for approved ARPA plans
  - iv. Rent subsidy changes
  - v. One Time Funding

Heather spoke of her intent of this suggestion; to address things that trip us up when people are moving out; Peter added there are a lot of things going on and how we bring them together is something we must figure out, i.e. rent subsidy should be improved cut down from 40% to 30% by end of June. July 1<sup>st</sup> is the drop-dead date; first/last month rent instead of security deposit and will be incorporated into rent subsidy if there is an issue at the end the provider can put in a one time; putting all these together is something we can try to do.

Tammy from DDS – respite centers have Yeti Boards, but we cannot buy it for families because it is out of the country, we need to make sure we are not showing families something they cannot buy.

- Kathy Bobinski comments:
  - i. Is the Rent Subsidy committee be established to address the issues?

Meals on Wheels is a good idea, but it should only be used if PCA's or family isn't available to prepare food.

Pam shared about being a Meals on Wheels provider to assist individuals moving to independent living and cannot control food issues. She talked about their meals on wheels pilot with DDS – made the menus culturally and healthy and appealing meals. The MOW will go on the DDS waiver; Also provide healthy cooking classes to incorporate healthy eating habits.

Heather – MOW great program; how does it work with having food all the time – there was a discussion around that. FAVAH also has a food program for people in supportive housing; it also helps with rent subsidy to have more money for other

things and not struggle with having enough money. Food is a big barrier for people moving out.

- ii. Obviously one-time funding for furniture is a fair idea. Can Southbury thrift store offer donated furniture. Kathy confirmed it is available.

Going back to meals plans are people using other options like Hello Fresh and home deliveries. They would love hello fresh...maybe we should look at another business model.

- iii. Training with repetition and varied presentation approaches may be more costly than anticipated. Hopefully, the incentives will help with this, and the one-time safety net is an added benefit.  
Peter discussed the use of incentives for this.
- iv. Will there be an evaluation of the training upon completion of the training which asks the staff members if they feel fully informed about the initiative and that they support its efforts.
- v. Are parents or individuals living with in-home supports aware of the Notices of Opportunity. Are case managers making families aware and are newsletters alerting people to the opportunities.

Kathy B said people on waiver do not qualify for assistive technology assessments...we keep getting "Nos" Pam joined in – DSS is working on how to get the AT out to these other funding sources. Peter mentioned - Carlie can get assistive technology through the day program.

Peter stated he was not sure it was in the newsletter – maybe next time.

- vi. It would be helpful to list all the other transportation options that would be deemed unworkable before Lyft or Uber are approved.  
Arc CT has a website already developed and will coordinate with DDS to make it more visible. Pam will send Peter information.
- vii. It is hopeful to say that providers will backfill any openings from the very long emergency list, but there is certainly no guarantee that this will happen. It is essential that some plan and possibly incentives be put in place in the very near future for the population.  
Betsy clarified information around this. Peter also joined in the conversation, and it included incentives for taking people from the emergency waitlist.
- viii. Are there any clear guidelines for handling missteps by individuals embracing their newfound independence?
- ix. The Dept. of Housing site states that the waiting list for RAP's is currently closed and that there is always a long waitlist whenever it is opened again. Will this effect this initiative?
- x. The staffing shortage is very real.

- Meeting ended at 3:37pm

