State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

Morna A. Murray, J.D.
Commissioner

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Acting Deputy Commissioner

DDS FY 2016 and FY 2017 Proposed Budget Update

From: Morna A. Murray, Commissioner

March 2015

This document explains the differences between the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) current estimated 2015 appropriation and Governor Dannel P. Malloy's proposed budget for fiscal years (FYs) 2016 and 2017. The details and highlights of the DDS budget contained in the Governor's proposed budget are available online at the following link:
http://www.ct.gov/opm/cwp/view.asp?a=2958&Q=560958).

Below is a description of the significant changes in the DDS budget.

Personal Services (DDS Employees): Seven positions and related funding of $688,354 were transferred with the Birth to Three Program to the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) which will assume lead agency status on July 1, 2015. A reduction of $900,000 for 15 case management positions is eliminated with the proposed reduction to the Voluntary Services Program (VSP). $11.4 million of required FY 16 collective bargaining costs for DDS staff have been funded. Personal Services is increased by $6,085,340 from FY 15 to FY 16 and 8,183,478 from FY 15 to FY17.

- The percentage change in the Personal Services account from FY 15 to FY 16 is 2.33% and from FY 15 to FY 17 is 3.13%.

Other Expenses: This account supports operating costs (utilities, food, information technology, etc.) for state operated facilities and group homes as well as the Central and Regional Offices. Other Expenses is reduced by a total of 1,099,704 from FY 15 to FY 16. Additionally, DDS will be absorbing the required reduction to the Human Resource Development account through this account (see below).

- The percentage change in the Other Expenses account from FY 15 to FY 16 is -5.00% and from FY 15 to FY 17 is -5.00%.

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Human Resource Development: DDS will be absorbing a reduction in staff training of $188,443. This reduction will be absorbed in the Other Expenses Account.

- The percentage change in the Human Resource Development account from FY 15 to FY 16 is -100.00% and from FY 15 to FY 17 is -100.00%.

Family Support Grants: This account has been consolidated with the following accounts: Community Temporary Supports Services ($60,753), Community Respite Care Programs ($558,137) and the Family Reunion Program ($82,349). The consolidated Family Support Grants account is increased by $277,935 from FY 15 to FY 16 and $277,935 from FY 15 to FY 17. The consolidated account total for FY 16 and FY 17 is $423,304 less than the FY 15 allocation of the accounts combined (inclusive of a $7,154 rescission).

- The percentage change in the Family Support Grant account from FY 15 to FY 16 is 8.03% and from FY 15 to FY 17 is 8.03%.

Cooperative Placements Program: $562,728 has been provided to annualize FY 15 caseload growth.

Clinical Services: This account has been reduced by a total of $806,876 from FY 15 to FY16 and the same amount from FY 15 to FY 17. This includes an anticipated reduction in the reliance on Nursing Pool services and eliminating a contracted Medical Director.

- The percentage change in the Clinical Services account from FY 15 to FY 16 is -18.76% and from FY 15 to FY 17 is -18.76%.

Early Intervention: Approx. $39.9 million is being transferred out of this account related to the transfer of the Birth to Three Program to the Office of Early Childhood. This includes $688,354 associated with the seven positions in the Personal Services account associated with this transfer.

Community Temporary Support Services: Consolidated into the Family Support Account – (mentioned above).

Community Respite Care Programs: Consolidated into the Family Support Account – (mentioned above).

Autism Services: This account is reduced by $85,256 from FY 15 to FY 16 but increased by $211,833 from FY 15 to FY17. It should be noted that $164,744 has been added to fund placements on the Home and Community Based Waiver for Persons with Autism. Funding to support the new Early Childhood Autism Waiver ($1 million) has been removed to reflect coverage under the new federal mandate (Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment -EPSDT) requiring Medicaid to cover behavioral services for individuals under the age of 21 with autism spectrum disorder. This new expansion is funded under the Department of Social Services' Medicaid account. Additionally, approximately $750,000 was provided to continue initiatives recommended by the Autism Feasibility Study (previously funded out of the Tobacco and Health Trust Fund).

- The percentage change in the Autism Services account from FY 15 to FY 16 is -3.00% and from FY 15 to FY 17 is 8.00%.

Voluntary Services: The DDS Voluntary Service Program (VSP) has been reduced by $19,732,592 from FY 15 to FY 16 and $13,829,318 from FY 15 to FY 17. These amounts do not include the $900,000 reduction in the Personal Service Account for 15 case management positions associated with this program.

- The percentage change in the Voluntary Services account from FY 15 to FY 16 is -60.31% and from FY 15 to FY 17 is -42.27%.

Supplemental Payments for Medical Services: This account funds the user fee associated with state operated ICF/IIDs. $170,000 was reduced through FY 15 rescissions that were annualized in FY 16 and FY 17 to reflect fewer individuals in state operated ICF/IIDs.

Rent Subsidy Program: This account, which funds rent and utility subsidies for individuals living in their own apartments, was reduced by $20,000 through FY 15 rescissions that were annualized in FY 16 and FY 17.

Family Reunion Program: Consolidated into the Family Support Account – (mentioned above).

Employment Opportunities and Day Services: This account has been reduced by $748,085 from FY 15 to FY 16. $1,760,415 has been added from FY 15 to FY 17. This account includes $1.9 million to annualize FY 15 caseload growth and $2.4 million in FY16 to support day programs for 99 individuals and $2 million in FY 17 for 84 individuals aging out of placements previously funded by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) or Local Education Authorities (LEAs) during the biennium. Day programs for FY 16 and FY 17 high school graduates are not funded.

- The percentage change in the Employment Opportunities and Day Services account from FY 15 to FY 16 is -3.4% and from FY 15 to FY 17 is 0.79%.

Community Residential Services: This account has been increased by $22,332,662 from FY 15 to FY 16 and $34,818,728 from FY 15 to FY 17. This includes the annualization of the $4 million FY 15 Waiting List Initiative to $8 million in FY 16 and FY 17. $7.2 million has been provided to annualize FY 15 caseload growth for residential placements related to Money Follows the Person (MFP), the Messier Settlement Agreement and age-outs. Additionally, almost $10 million was provided in FY 16 to support residential placements for 110 individuals and $8 million in FY 17 for 96 individuals aging out of DCF or LEA-funded placements in FY 16 and FY 17.

- The percentage change in the Community Residential Services account from FY 15 to FY 16 is 4.87% and from FY 15 to FY 17 is 7.59%.

Note: In summary, the net increase in DDS's budget from FY 15 to FY 16, (not including the reallocation of funding associated with the transfer of the Birth to Three Program to the OEC) is approximately $5.7 million. The net increase from FY 15 to FY 17 is approximately $28.9 million. FY 15 Rescissions are annualized at $10.5 million each year.

As a reminder, the Governor's proposed biennial budget is the first step during the legislative session towards achieving a balanced state budget. After the Appropriations Committee public hearings are held, there will be follow-up Appropriations Committee subcommittee meetings with state agencies to gather additional information. The subcommittees will then make recommendations to the full Appropriations Committee, which will vote a proposed budget out of the committee. Once a budget is voted out of the Appropriations Committee, negotiations between the Governor's office, the Appropriations and Finance Revenue and Bonding Committees' leadership and legislative leaders generally occurs until a consensus can be reached on a budget that will be presented to the entire General Assembly for a final vote.

For general follow up questions about this information, please contact Jordan Scheff, Acting Deputy Commissioner (860-418-6015).