



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Elisa F. Velardo
Deputy Commissioner

ARPA Day Committee Meeting
November 4, 2023
Minutes

Attending: Keith Lavalette, Trevor Rogers, Beth Fisher, Sue Bastien, Amber Carter, Jennifer Keatley, Sean Bannon, Sarah Ullom-Minnich
Deloitte Consulting- Betsy Bella

Review of the Guidelines of Public Meetings- Keith Lavalette

Review of the 9/11/23 Minutes: Jennifer Keatley moved to accept them, and Beth Fisher seconded. Minutes were approved.

DDS-SELN Update-Trever Rogers

The report is in the hands of Leadership, working on the Innovative Employment Opportunity grants which are designed to support small business and entrepreneurs to promote competitive integrated employment for people with IDD.

CT customized employment certification courses are available for 2024.

Incentive for Appendix K for employees who complete approved training for employment certification course is \$3000 for each employee up to ten employees.

Employment Services Brochures have been created for individuals to review the different types of services options available.

Developed a one-time employment incentive guide to explain the different types of one-time employment incentives that are available.

Employment Resources which explain the different aspects of hiring individuals, discusses some of the benefits of federal and state specific tax credits and resources available to individuals who are employed.

Questions arose about one-times and the need to annualize the funds and changes to individual services needs and the plan for on-going supports.

Communication update- Keith gave a quick update on the Employment video and that it is being finalized and should be available soon.

Data update Sarah Ullom Minnich provided an update on the performance outcome evaluation process. She gave an update on tracking of the incentives and how DDS is tracking them. She discussed the primary outcomes from baseline to the end of the project and gave updates from the first quarter. The tracking began at the end of September and will be providing updates at the end of December, which will be the end of the second quarter.

Day Transitions if all providers are approved the number of transitions will reach 171 out of two hundred of the goal at this point in the ARPA period.

Deloitte update- Betsy gave her update for Deloitte and working with the regions and Central office on clear consistencies on payment and the incentives. Provided update on the guidance on restructuring a setting. Discussion about taking individuals with high medical or behavioral needs and agencies who already serve this type of individual. New FAQ's are up on the website and Deloitte continues to offer one-to-one assistance. We are seeing a lot of progress on the STEP plan outcomes with the DDS owners.

1. Transition Plan update:

- 15 plans approved
- 4 plans pending approval

ARPA Update:

Assistive Technology:

1. AT Eval RFP: DDS has met with the 3 Providers that are being awarded the RFP Contract to evaluate logistics for software to manage referrals and overall service provisions for AT. These plans are currently being discussed with IT and DDS Administration. Through this initiative, the RFP contractors will deliver a comprehensive service providing AT Assessments, Product Purchasing, Installation and Training at a set rate. The team developing the actual Contract for the 3 Providers is meeting regularly and is expected to have a final draft for submission shortly. A start date of February 1, 2024, is currently targeted however, the exact date is still in discussion as certain steps need to be completed prior to the project being launched.
2. The AT ATACP CSUN Course: ends on December 8, 2023. 100 DDS staff are working towards completing a assistive technology course.
3. The Notices of Opportunity (NOO's) for AT Grant funding for Individuals/Families/IHS and Providers (CLA, CCH, CRS, IHS): are underway and since they became available in September, there have been 50 AT Grant requests through the Individual/Family NOO and 34 through the Providers.
4. Remote Supports Consultant: The Remote Supports Consultant is coming on board sometime in January.
5. AT & ME: has trained 95 individuals to date and several others in process. Candidates for AT & ME continue to be dependent upon referrals from Case Managers and timely referral of those interested in participating needs further emphasis. The use of AT & ME products for those appropriate for the program can lead to further interest in Assistive Technology products that can improve individual's lives and support greater independence.

Rewarding Work

Rewarding Work is up and running. It is a tool for individuals who are looking for staff and can set up job postings. Individuals looking for jobs can post resumes.

Communications on the use and applicability of this tool continue to be disseminated through the DDS Communications team.

Case Management System

1. DDS has hired a project manager and a number of business analysts for the new case management system. They reviewed five to seven states and have narrowed it down to two states and will review those systems.

Recommended solution approach is forthcoming.

Universal Assessment

1. DDS and DSS have decided to work with a vendor to see how all state of CT agencies can be brought on board with the concept of universal assessment and to see how this system will fit within all the state agencies.

Keith Lavalette thanked all committee members for their participation in this committee.