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“Moving On”
Current
State Review
Highlights

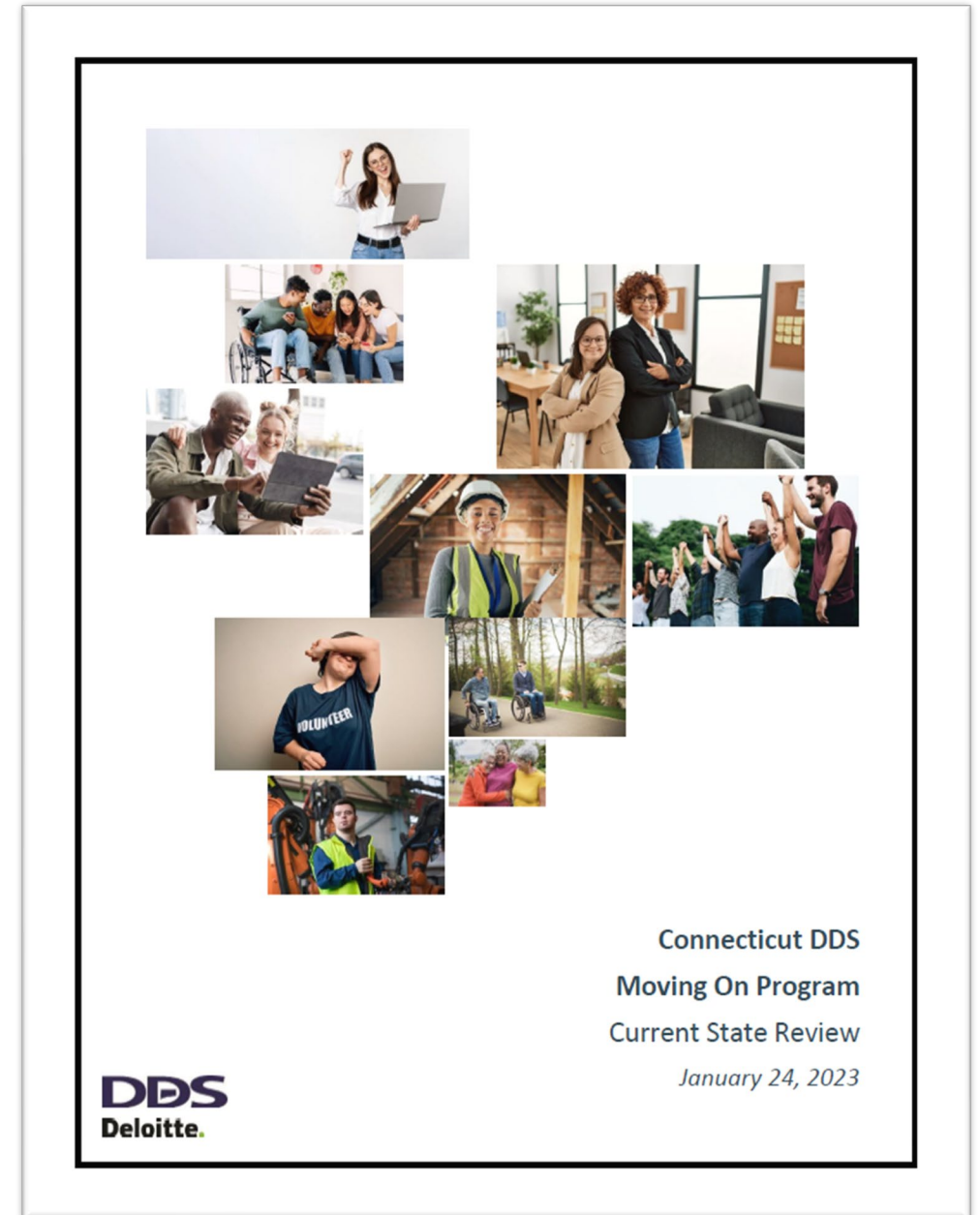
DDS Transformation Project

Connecticut Department of Developmental Services

FEBRUARY 2023

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Research Framework & Approach

A total of 12 states were identified as potential candidates for the Current State Review in consultation with DDS and national experts. Of those 12 states, DDS selected five states to research in-depth. States were selected based on the following criteria:

- States similar in total population size to Connecticut and/or with programs of similar size to Connecticut.
- States implementing innovative or unique supports for adults with I/DD, especially regarding residential and day/employment supports, assistive technology, and community integration.
- States that have undergone HCBS transformation efforts that could lend lessons learned to Connecticut.

The selected states are Arkansas, Delaware, Maine, Missouri, and Pennsylvania. Additional states in the initial review were Arizona, California, Maryland, Minnesota, Ohio, Oregon, and Washington.

- Interviews with state and provider staff. Interviews included selected I/DD agencies, sister agencies within Connecticut and externally, and providers to gather details on their program operations and transformation efforts.
- A literature review supplements interview findings for additional information and context.
- **Connecticut's I/DD waivers already offer significant flexibility to provide supports in individualized, independent settings.** This research included conversations with Connecticut providers utilizing these flexibilities to offer more options to the people they serve.

State Interviews

The following organizations across the selected states and in Connecticut participated in interviews for this report.

Connecticut Partners

Bureau of Rehabilitation Services
Department of Mental Health and
Addiction Services
Department of Social Services
Favarh
The Arc ECT
Midstate Arc



Arkansas

Division of Development
Disabilities Services



Delaware

Division of Developmental
Disabilities Services



Maine

Office of Aging and Disability
Services, Developmental Disability
and Brain Injury Services



Missouri

Division of Developmental
Disabilities



Pennsylvania

Office of Developmental
Programs



Leading Practice Categories

Our team organized the key findings into six thematic categories based on our research insights and conversations with state stakeholders:

1

Individuals who Receive Supports as the Primary Focus

2

Residential Supports

3

Employment Supports

4

Provider Engagement

5

Assistive Technology and Remote Supports

6

Payment Methodologies

Highlighted Leading Practices

Category	Leading Practices
Individuals who Receive Supports as the Primary Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enhance training for DDS case managers focused on alternative service options and new approaches that result from the DDS Moving On Program, and partner with providers so individuals have access to the full range of supports with adequate information during person-centered planning.• Review and revise or develop additional transition-specific shared responsibility documents for the person-centered planning process detailing potential obstacles and planned mitigations. Require individuals and planning team to sign this document to highlight importance. Connecticut Money Follows the Person (MFP) has a document that could serve as a model.
Residential Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to allow providers flexibility to collaborate with individuals who receive supports, their families, and others on creative residential approaches and tools. Specifically encourage providers to adopt and expand clustered housing, assistive technology, and remote supports.• Build on and expand housing voucher programs through partnerships with state and local resources to strengthen sustainable rent and utilities support.

Highlighted Leading Practices

Category	Leading Practices
Employment Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to allow providers flexibility to collaborate with individuals who receive supports, their families, and others on creative day service approaches. Specifically encourage providers to adopt remote supports for Customized Employment.• Develop annual statewide employment goals focused on increasing the percentage of individuals with I/DD participating in competitive, integrated employment to tie progress to specific, quantitative metrics.• Support providers to leverage and expand their networks of business partners, to place and train individuals receiving supports and provide more opportunities for long-term success.
Provider Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide non-financial recognition and incentives to exemplary providers to motivate through competition and achieve improved service delivery. For example, providing a designation for meeting clearly defined standards which providers can include on their website. These would be in addition to financial incentives.• Host facilitated calls where providers can share updates related to Moving On efforts to identify and spread promising approaches and promote coordination.

Highlighted Leading Practices

Category	Leading Practices
Assistive Technology and Remote Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide a trial period for remote supports adoption and consider beginning implementation early and slowly with transitioning youth• Create a technology task force led by the incoming statewide Assistive Technology Director to develop tailored education materials and improve implementation practices statewide. The task force should include people who use assistive technology and remote supports and other external stakeholders like assistive technology specialists.
Payment Methodologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider providing payment incentives to HCBS providers that collect and submit outcome and activity quality data for future value-based payment benchmarking.• If Moving On Program efforts result in significant measurable positive outcomes –and funds allow– consider temporarily extending some of the transition incentives.