

Intellectual Disability Partnership Advisory Committee (IDPAC)
Meeting Agenda
1/31/19

Convened at 2:10pm.

Present: Rick Sebastian (Kennedy Center), Win Evarts (parent), Barry Simon (Oak Hill), Commissioner Jordan Scheff (DDS), Katie Rock-Burns (DDS), Deputy Commissioner Peter Mason (DDS), Krista Ostaszewski (DDS), Scott McWilliams (DDS), Judy Dowd (OPM), Shelly Maynes (OPM), Andrea Barton-Reeves (Harc), Adrienne Benjamin (parent), Marina Derman (parent).

Absent: Collette Bement (parent), Lauren Traceski (self-advocate), Kate McEvoy (DSS).

1. Review of Minutes – 10/25/18 meeting

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Employment conference request (Amber Burke)

Amber Burke, DDS' Director of Day/Employment, presented a request for support of a Provider Readiness Conference focused on employment. The conference, planned for May, will be aimed at providers and sister agencies. It will have two tracks – one for beginners, one for slightly more advanced providers in the area of integrated employment. The first day of the conference will target provider staff from senior management all the way down to job developers. Given the projected size of the group, DDS is working with colleges for appropriate venues. The second day will be hosted at DDS, and will target senior management with sister agency leadership. The day will focus on consultation with the subject matter experts (SMEs) on more in depth detail of plans, potential barriers, and steps to move forward.

Rick Sebastian suggested that having federal SMEs without providers who have actually done this is not helpful to providers. He requested that the conference include “boots on the ground” and like organizations, so that providers can learn from their successes and failures.

Amber Burke noted that the goal of the conference is just an introduction to get providers and sister agencies to listen and buy in to a new way of thinking about employment. She shared that other states have done this conference with these SMEs to provide a framework for that conversation. She also committed to considering the inclusion of provider representatives.

Andrea Barton-Reeves suggested that DDS connect with the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, which has given a four part series on how to build a social enterprise for nonprofits.

Barry Simon shared that the Easterseals network just had a conference on this topic and offered to connect DDS with other Easterseals groups around the country who have had success doing this.

Commissioner Scheff shared that DDS has been asking for providers to do this work for a long time, but has not been good about supporting their education in it. This conference would be a good first step.

Marina Derman offered caution against the unintended consequence of committing to only competitive employment for all. She shared her perspective that this focus results in less employment overall, because folks who are unable to do or find competitive employment engage in no employment at all.

Rick Sebastian concurred and discussed how this phenomenon was demonstrated in WA and ME. These states led the charge in eliminating sheltered workshop and have felt the unintended consequence. He suggested bringing leaders from those states to the table to see how those policy decisions affected things for them.

Win Evarts asked whether B Corps could be used to support the middle ground between sheltered workshops and competitive employment. If people own their own businesses, they can pay themselves what they want – does not necessarily need to be minimum wage.

Rick Sebastian shared that WIOA has pushed the issue of employer of record status. B Corps can really help nonprofits, as the B Corp can be employer of record for a business, but the nonprofit is still involved in some part of the ownership.

The committee will consider supporting the conference. Amber Burke will review the feasibility of including provider representatives.

4. Update on priority areas/ 5. Next Steps

Provider Readiness

Katie Rock-Burns shared some information about the Provider Readiness Conference focused on direct Medicaid billing that DDS hosted in January. Commissioner Scheff discussed some of the apprehension around the use of the term “managed care” in the keynote presentation. He reiterated that neither DDS nor the presenter were indicating that CT had made a policy decision to move toward managed care, it was simply an educational opportunity for providers, based on the pillars of the ID Partnership, as laid out three years ago.

Barry Simon suggested that the IDP needs to allow the values that are so important to how we provide care to be a component of transformation. While the system is transforming, attention must be paid to flexibility, nuances, and movement within the system.

Commissioner Scheff suggested that other states are moving to a level beyond this, in which providers are paid for the outcomes, not the services provided to get to the outcomes. These states are piloting with 1115i waivers to fund services this way. CT is taking small steps in that direction, starting with direct billing.

Assistive Technology

Katie Rock-Burns shared that DDS Regions are authorizing one times for training of staff on promotion and implementation of assistive technology, as well as purchases of assistive technology.

Blended Services

Katie Rock-Burns shared that the Regions are currently working on converting authorizations for the approximately 12 individuals identified to participate in the pilot. Leadership met with Case Managers to kick off the pilot in December and will meet again in February to discuss progress.

Rick Sebastian asked how the department is reporting out on success. Deputy Commissioner Mason explained that the pilot is focused on individuals self-hiring through individual budgets, due to time and system constraints. DDS will be looking to case managers for qualitative data and will be including the DDS Business Intelligence unit in upcoming meetings to determine additional measures.

Deputy Commissioner Mason shared feedback from the national expert brought in for the provider readiness conference that most other states seem to have a single stream of funding. Commissioner Scheff also shared that a survey being conducted by the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services indicates the same – no other state responding to the survey has bifurcated funding.

Employment

Katie Rock-Burns shared that information will be going out to providers and families regarding plans for supporting businesses and alternative employment models for individuals with ID.

Commissioner Scheff indicated that DDS has been working on the review group for business plans, as DDS does not have expertise in that area. Provider representatives suggested several parties that may be interested in assisting with a review process. Rick Sebastian offered to work with statewide resources to pull together a review panel.

Meeting adjourned.

***IDPAC Priorities
Finalized 8/22/18***

1. **Employment:** support alternative business models or alternative models of support that would employ or encourage the employment of people with intellectual disability through education and consideration of the establishment of a revolving loan fund for startup costs.
2. **Blended Services:** establish a combination residential/day services account to pilot blended services for a small group of individuals.
3. **Assistive Technology:** fund provider staff training on how to properly implement and promote assistive technology.
4. **Provider Readiness:** offer provider readiness analysis and education in the area of direct Medicaid billing.