

**Legislative Advisory Committee for Reimbursements for Services Under Programs Administered
by the Department of Developmental Services**

January 11, 2011
CCPA Office, 35 Cold Spring Rd., Rocky Hill, CT
2:30 P.M.

Attendees: Pat Bourne, Co-Chair; Joseph Drexler, DDS; Peter Mason, DDS; Mary McKay, DDS; Peter O'Meara, Commissioner of DDS; Krista Pender, DDS; Jerry Brennan, Kuhn Employment Opportunities, Inc.; Terry Macy, SARAH-Tuxis; Janice Chamberlain, Camp Horizons Program

Summary of Meeting

Handouts: Final Report

- Review of October 5, 2010 Summary of Meeting – Accepted
- Review of Final Report
 - The draft final report was sent electronically on 12/20/10 to all committee members with the request to send all comments and corrections by 1/3/11. Responses identified typographical and similar errors and there were no recommendations for substantive changes. The report submitted today is final as amended.
 - All Advisory Committee and sub-committee members received an electronic copy of the Final Report, Executive Summary and Frequently Asked Questions
 - A copy of the Executive Summary was sent to the Governor's Transition Task Force
 - Copies of the full report were distributed to the following:
 - Attorney Jonathan Harris, Co-Chair; Speaker of the House Christopher Donovan; Senator Donald Williams, President Pro Tempore; Representative Betsy Ritter; Deborah Heinrich, Human Services Provider Advocate; Commissioner Peter O'Meara; the Clerks of the House and Senate; and the trade associations.
 - Electronic copies of the final report, Executive Summary and Frequently Asked Questions will be sent to leadership and ranking members of the Appropriations Committee; Public Health Committee and Human Services Committee.
 - All committee documents will be available on the DDS Website.
 - Pat thanked committee and sub-committee members for their work and commitment to ensuring the committee met its obligation in completing the report.
 - Dave Pickus of District 1199 subsequently submitted a written comment noting objections to the final report. Discussion ensued. Mr. Pickus will send his comments electronically to the full committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Prewitt

Maureen Prewitt
Advisory Committee Administrative Staff
Department of Developmental Services



SEIUHealthcare

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January 11, 2010

Patricia Bourne, Co-Chair, *By Hand*
Jonathan Harris, Co-Chair . *Via Email*
Members of the DDS Legislative Rate Study Committee, *Via Email*

Subject: Report of the Advisory Committee for Services Under Programs Administered by the CT Dept. of Developmental Services (DDS)

Dear Ms. Bourne, Mr. Harris and Members of the Advisory Committee:

On behalf of the 55,000 members of the Service Employees International Union who work in Connecticut, I would like to express our members' deep disappointment with this report and with the outcome of the discussions in which we participated.

The SEIU local which I serve as Secretary-Treasurer, New England Health Care Employees Union, District 1199, represents more 8,000 professional and direct care workers providing developmental disability services in both the public and the private sectors. Hundreds of our members, as well as members of other SEIU locals, are also clients of the Department of Developmental Services as the parents or guardians of children and other family members.

For all of those reasons, SEIU members have worked for many years to support improved funding and quality for the services we both provide and use. We are committed to progressive change in the way those services are delivered, including the expansion of home- and community-based and consumer-directed services.

We participated in the rate structure review because we believe that our state should continue to innovate and improve the ways that we pay for high-quality services while using public resources responsibly. However, we do not believe that this report, in its preliminary format, supports that positive change.

Our major concern is the evident underlying presumption that the wages and benefits that union members have negotiated over the years through collective advocacy are a fundamental cause of the funding and rate-setting issues Connecticut faces. The corollary assumption, which runs throughout the report's narrative and recommendations, is that in both the public and the private service sectors, it is that (1) only by undermining those hard-won standards that the state can continue to draw down monies from CMS and provide services and (2) the "wide disparity and inequity in rates" is best addressed by driving rates down as low as possible in a "race to the bottom" that comes almost entirely at the expense of direct care workers.

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Report of the Advisory Committee

We do not and will not accept this assumption. Quality services for persons with disabilities must be built on a foundation of family-sustaining jobs.

I am writing not simply to find fault but in the hope that we can move away from pointing fingers and towards a more productive and collaborative direction. As it stands, this report does not in any way reflect the perspective and efforts of our members, the people who must both implement and live with the outcome of our work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Pickus".

David Pickus
Secretary-Treasurer

DP/dc