**Connecticut Kick-Off: Summary of Evaluation**

**September 17, 2013**

**Overall Satisfaction with Stakeholders Meeting**

Attendees were asked to rate their overall satisfaction with today’s session on a scale of (1) very dissatisfied to (4) very satisfied. 73% of the attendees who responded were very satisfied with the day. Attendees responded regarding elements of the meeting and provided feedback about next steps.

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| Attendees were asked to respond to the following questions about the meeting | n | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Agree | Strongly Agree | Mean |
| I have a better understanding of the types of supports families with family members with disabilities have across the lifespan | 99 | 1%(1) | 17%(17) | 56%(55) | 26%(26) | 3.07 |
| I have a better understanding of the National Community of Practice project | 100 |  |  | 43%(43) | 57%(57) | 3.57 |
| It is my opinion that this project will make a difference in CT\* | 97 |  | 5%(5) | 48%(47) | 46%(45) | 3.41 |
| I am interested in continuing to be a part of the CT Supporting Families work. | 93 |  |  | 34%(32) | 66%(61) | 3.66 |
| The meeting was productive | 100 |  | 2%(2) | 46%(46) | 52%(52) | 3.50 |
| My thoughts and opinions were taken into consideration. | 97 |  | 1%(1) | 40%(39) | 59%(57) | 3.58 |
| Scale: 1=Strongly Disagree, 2=Disagree, 3=Agree, 4=Strongly Agree\*Percentage doesn’t equal 100 due to rounding |

**Attendees were asked to provide general questions or feedback. The following summarizes those responses:**

* A conversation might get going. Why are group homes slated to be closed when there are still individuals on the "emergency" list?
* Send a thank you note to teach attendee including a specific easy way to join a committee
* Continue constant communication with all participants. Keep informed
* Diverse cultural groups to be part of the entire process. Please keep the DDS staff (all staff/all divisions) informed of this project process
* Everything was very informative and very easy for families to understand
* First question is the wrong question, should be need not have. None of this is new to me since from birth (son is 32) we've had to create a life for him at every stage from friends and family gatherings to school trying to get him a decent education (we had to sue in federal court) then and to transition and how into employment for the past 13 years we've had to build it all. My view is that the focus is on "What do you need family/individual" can be of enormous help. Changing the system, reinventing the waiver will be a huge challenge/undertaking. If this process (not community of practice) remains an open process I think it can succeed. If it disappears into the back offices of DDS to "work it out" it will fail. Also the absence of any discussion of housing is troublesome. If one of the DDS longed for outcomes is "keep folks at home" likewise it will fail. I’m simply too old to keep this up.
* Futuristically-abuse and neglect issues & solutions for discussion. More understanding of the "as is" system that is in place with a vision of the "to be". Lots of dialogue generated and ideas, gaps need to be filled
* Good start-how to move forward into concrete ideas will be the challenge. How to turn slow moving ship. The day helped illustrate for me how stakeholders are not as forward thinking as I hoped. Families at my table wanted to add to what exists-not think differently-outside the box
* Great to know everyone was able to share their thoughts
* Have these types of meeting more often for all groups to come together. Network, provide input to DDS-perhaps quarterly check-ups/ins to see the progress on our actions, DDS actions, family actions, etc.
* Hopeful some of the committees will take place after work hours
* How does this fit with LON? Can that system change? Very valuable info today if roadblocks can be overcome
* I made a couple of good connections. I wish we started with "3 wishes" instead of ending with this. It would have been interesting to hear what they have to say before hearing about this.
* I really like the mix of people and backgrounds in the groups and the varied perspective and knowledge. I think this is key to being truly innovative in brainstorming. I feel when we break down into our focus groups as we move on...we may lose this because we are breaking into more homogeneous (like) groups and will not have the varied perspectives
* I think there should be more participation in the crowd, but everything else is great
* I would like to see more consumers at the table, more Spanish consumers with translation programs to be available for everyone. Workers to have passion for their position, teachers at school, staff, everyone have to understand mental health. Schools do not let parents know about transition when they graduate from high school
* If they are going to invite us, please simplify words and to be break off (SA) or family
* It was difficult for me to pick one committee. I’m wondering if participation in two could work
* Looking forward to workgroups/committees work
* Make slides clearer. Include all slides in handouts.
* Next time translate to Spanish and info in Spanish
* Not sure if any Board of Education from towns (successful/unsuccessful) were invited. Maybe they attended but were silent
* Not working for families, especially families with older individuals to help families out with younger individuals that don't have the same services
* Presenters were wonderful
* Putting the people from agency, state, families, etc. at tables together was a great idea. We had great discussions with all different points of view.
* Really great meeting
* Speaker was very good-Sheli Reynolds-Her personal experience made it "real"
* Specific examples liven the discussion
* The discussions were overwhelmingly productive, but the 2+ hour presentation was overwhelming. Too long at one time, even with break. Otherwise, fantastic.
* The project will make a difference in CT with financial support and safety net for families
* There was not enough time for table discussions. Additional conversations had to be cut short much to the frustration of those at the table
* Very interested in working on being part of a change
* We need to not let this die on the vine
* When addressing the audience avoid language that identifies you as a professional instead of a family member first