

**DDS Residential Rates
Transition and Implementation Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2012**

Attendees: Elisa Velardo, Peter Mason, Stan Soby, Thomas Dailey, Quincy Abbot, Pat Dillon, Varian Salters

Absent: Amy Chase and Warren Sparrow

Goals of the Committee:

- * **Develop an Implementation and Transition process for the residential rates**
 - * **Develop provisions for financial hardship.**
 - * **Develop a mechanism for an on-going assessment to re-examine rates on a regular basis.**
 - * **Address the issue of Collective Bargaining Agreements**
 - * **Identify and review other issues that may impact implementation.**
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- Once the residential rates get developed – this committee is charged with determining how we transition to the rates and implement the transition.
 - Peter reviewed the historical contracting system, and the impact of age of contract and collective bargaining on the current rates across the system.
 - In accordance with the Home and Community Based Service Waiver – People with the same Level of Need and comparable services should have the same level of funding.
 - The Transition will occur from 1/1/13 through 6/30/20 – 7 ½ year transition process.
 - We will also develop a mechanism for reviewing rates on a regular basis.
 - The goal of the rate setting workgroup will be to establish an hourly rate for Individualized Home Supports (I.H.S) and ideally a monthly rate for Continuous Residential Supports (CRS) and Community Living Arrangements (CLA).
 - The Community Companion Home (CCH) rate structure is already in place and will be reviewed.
 - Rates will be determined based on level of need and size of the setting to ensure there are no incentives for larger congregate housing.
 - The goal of this group is not to set policy or develop guidelines around who should live in what setting.
 - The issue of technology was raised. This may be discussed as a topic in the Residential Issues subcommittee, as that may be a component of cost effective services.
 - We discussed the challenge of ensuring this subcommittee is aware of the larger discussions that are taking place in the Residential Rate Setting Workgroup.
 - Peter indicated that subcommittee members can attend but not participate in those meetings.
 - Several of the Implementation Committee members also participate in the Residential Rate Setting meetings and will keep our committee informed.
 - Peter will ensure that committee members are notified when minutes are posted on the DDS Website.

- We will start each meeting with an overview of what has transpired in the larger Rate Setting Workgroup.
- Resources and Data that may be useful in informing this project:
 - Thomas indicated that we may want to review Community Companion Home data on Satisfaction with services, as well as whether individuals have received more or less services over time.
 - Quincy shared his concern that individuals do not lose services through this process.
 - We discussed the fact that conversion data might be helpful in looking at satisfaction.
 - During the Course of the transition, we may want to conduct surveys every other year to measure satisfaction.
 - UCONN has data on satisfaction regarding the Money Follows the Person.
 - Peter suggested we look at other states to see how they transitioned to standardized rates.
 - Oregon REBAR - transitioned to standardized rates in a one year time frame. Peter and Quincy will try to gather more information.
 - New Mexico – implemented in one year and achieved savings, though savings is not necessarily our goal in CT. Peter and Quincy will try to gather more information.
 - Ohio – Stan indicated that we may want to look at Ohio. Peter thought that CMS may have had concerns about the OHIO county system. Stan will try to gather more information.
 - Illinois – Stan has contacts and will explore.
 - New England – Elisa will follow up with the AAIDD Region X Board to gather information about their experiences.
 - New Hampshire and Vermont – Varian has contacts and will gather information.
 - Questions to ask of contacts in other states include:
 - Is there a consistent set of rates in place by model?
 - Is it based on some Level of Need, and if so, what is used?
 - Is size of setting a factor in the rate?
 - How was the new system implemented?
 - What has been the impact?
 - Are individuals receiving more, the same, or less supports.
 - How do people served and families feel about the rate structure?
- Peter distributed the Day Implementation Report for the committee to review.
- Our committee may have to wait for the rates to be established for much of the work to be done. We will meet monthly initially and more frequently when needed.
- IHS will likely have rates first – may be the first to be rolled out.
- CRS & CLA – it is likely these models will be based on existing rates, with differentiation based on size of the setting.
- Challenges:
 - At this time, the implementation begins on 1/13. We may find that we stagger implementation by model starting with I.H.S.
 - Peter shared some of the challenges that were experienced during the day transition, and noted that residential would be much more complicated.