

Department of Developmental Services
Residential Transition Workgroup
Minutes
April 18, 2013

Present: Len Cipolline, Chet Fischer, Pauline Bouffard, Katie Banzhaf, Stephen Becker, Mary Pat DeCarlo, Peter Mason, Mark Kovitch, Sheila Cordock, Julia Wilcox (as stand-in member)

Minutes: The minutes of the March 21, 2013 meeting were reviewed and approved

Committee Reports

Implementation The implementation committee met to review the day transition process and the Individual Home Support (IHS) transition.

Residential Issues This committee has met and has finished studying information about alarms. The committee has drafted a procedure for the ethical use of assistive technology. The residential issues committee is currently looking at courses and applications for devices such as the iPad, and is ready to move on the addressing creative housing options at the next meeting (the first Monday in May).

Pauline Bouffard announced that she is retiring in August, but will continue her work on these committees.

CCH Committee The CCH committee continues to work toward a way to implement a standardized LoN-based rate system. The CCH regs hinder progress in this regard. The committee is looking at the impact on individuals and providers; it appears as though the impact will be felt differently in different regions. The transition plan is in development.

Shared living will be its own committee. This committee will include self-determination coordinators; this committee is trying to avoid carrying over a "licensed model" culture and is trying to not make shared living a "model" at all. They will be looking at how other states approach and experience shared living situations as an alternative to traditional residential models. There were questions as to whether this would be a LoN-based system—again, DDS is hoping for this to be an opportunity to explore creative shared living possibilities. They will be tasked with exploring a variety of shared living systems, options and arrangements.

IHS The IHS Committee will present the transition process training on May 14 at the NEAT Marketplace in Hartford. This is a statewide training and an announcement will be sent out shortly. The rates and methodology are in place for a July 1, 2013

implementation. Allocations are based on an average of all individuals within a LoN band (waiver) or based on the individual's actual utilization over the past year (contract). Individuals who currently have or utilize more hours than their LoN allows will receive one-time authorizations and have one year to transition to the new allocations and/or go through the URR process. The committee is looking at benchmarks for using less than the full allocation of hours, such as the provider may keep a percentage of the difference between the cap and utilization to create a pool of hours to draw on for additional support needs for anyone who receives IHS supports from that agency. At this point, there are many questions, issues and concerns to address. This implementation is not set in stone at this point and it may take up to a year to work out. Personal supports are not part of the transition at this time.

Clinical (including behavioral and medical) supports will be add-ons to the IHS rate based on individual needs. There will be some sort of "safety net" funding for IHS individuals to address support needs, such as ensuring continued benefits and entitlements, working with landlords, etc. There will be local decision-making authority for some circumstances in order to simplify and streamline the approval process.

Data Management
meeting next week.

Sustainability
minutes are not yet available.

Discussion

Reviewed the recent memos from the Commissioner to providers regarding the next steps for day rate transitions.

Residential LoN rate transition—we are going to have to move forward with the Grid rates, removing CRS for rate guidelines. We are probably looking at more reductions; the State budget is forcing movement towards standardized rates. We will have to be watchful during the transition period and will probably have to make adjustments; the res rates are not as "set" as the day rates and the transition process will need to be more fluid. The transition will start on January 1, 2014.

Southbury Training School—suggest that people moving from STS have an exclusion from rate cuts for a certain period, such as 3 years, utilizing a process similar to URR at that point. Maybe URR needs to approve STS budgets (in order to flag them as exclusions in the system).

Discussion regarding clinical supports—the clinical component needs review, particularly for individuals needing either behavioral or nursing support in excess of "regular" clinical supports.

If the Governor's budget holds, there will be residential cuts, likely to be implemented using the same logic and process as this past winter. Contracts will be sent to providers in May. There will be changes to the IHS language to reflect the transition to standardized LoN-based rates.

There were no public comments.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 16 at 1:00 pm at Connecticut Nonprofits.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sheila Cordock

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