

## LON Based Rate Transition Workgroup

June 8, 2011

**Those in Attendance:** Commissioner Macy, Deb Heinrich, Joe Drexler, Peter Mason, Sheryl Kemp, Matt Reyher, Steve Morris, Stan Soby, Janice Chamberlain, Pat Bourne, Alyssa Godutti, Elissa Velardo, Julia Wilcox, Katie Banzf

Commissioner Macy thanked everyone for participating. He explained the importance of the moving from the current legacy allocations to rates based on an individual's level of need. He announced that he has delayed the implementation start date to January 1, 2012 and has extended the transition period to seven years. The committee has been charged with developing a transition plan that will meet these new parameters.

Commissioner Macy stated that the department will actively work with the legislature to try and reduce the effect on the system by requesting additional resources. Unfortunately, the current fiscal situation of the state will make it extremely difficult to increase DDS funding over the next two years. The current fiscal environment was one of the factors used in extending the transition period. It was the expectation of the Commissioner to use the transition process as a model to determine the true cost of services that could be presented to the Office of Policy and Management.

Joe Drexler explained the proposed rate methodology that will be used to determine an individual's allocation. Deb Heinrich asked if DDS has or could research how the employee benefits percentage compares with the business community. The group requested that this be benchmarked with the CT Huskie insurance plan. There was a discussion of the proposed rates and the connection with the Level of Need tool.

Peter Mason handed out a revised outline of work for the committee. A revision was made to include in the plan a best practice model for the rate methodology to include a sustainable wage for the direct support staff. This began a discussion regarding the plan and how it would be developed. The current rate methodology would be considered as where the Department is as of the present. It would be a snapshot in time of how things are currently funded. The best practice model would include a sustainable wage and where the Department would want to be in the future. The plan would both include the steps necessary to transition to Level of Need based rates using the current appropriation as well as a methodology to move towards a "best practice" or "new practice" that would capture how a system with "sustainable wages and benefit level" would operate. It was also recommended that a definition of terms be included in the plan. The committee agreed on the outline with the amended changes.

There was a discussion regarding the committee instituting a co-chairperson format and that minutes would be rotated among the members. These issues will be discussed at the next meeting.