

**The Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Service Improvement  
Working Group  
Thursday, June 26, 2014  
Legislative Office Building – Room 1C  
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Emily Angeloff, Andrea Barton Reeves, Deborah Chernoff, Judy Dowd, Tom Fiorentino (Co-chair), Tesha Imperati, Terry Macy, Tom McCann, Morna Murray, Lisa Roland, Varian Salters, Barry Simon, Jonathan Slifka (Co-chair), Tracey Walker and Julia Wilcox

Members Absent: Terry Edelstein and Leslie Simoes

Call to Order – The meeting convened at 2:07 p.m.

Co-chair Slifka welcomed members of the Working Group and discussed the letter sent to members and the mission of the group. He clarified that although the letter was vast in scope, the focus of the group will be to understand and address the waiting list issues.

Introduction of Members – Members introduced themselves and their affiliations.

DDS Presentation on Waiting List – Commissioner Macy presented an overview of the Department of Developmental Services' Waiting List.

He described the different categories used by the agency and explained the process for assigning individuals to Emergency or Priority 1 lists or one of the planning lists. He also explained the work of the Regional Planning and Resource Allocation Teams (PRAT) in determining how individuals get assigned to lists and the Level of Need (LON) Assessment tool and how it helps inform the determinations made by the PRAT teams. He provided specific data on the number of individuals on each list and the types of supports or services they may receive based on their assignment. (See attachment for details). He also stated that this information is produced for the DDS quarterly Management Information Report (MIR) and posted on their website.

Commissioner Macy also stated that he had attended the June 2014 National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) Directors Forum & Mid-Year Conference and highlighted data presented regarding waitlists across the country. (See attachment for details).

Following Commissioner Macy's presentation, the group had many questions and comments. Among them were:

- Definitions used for waiting lists across the country
- The number of individuals on the waiting lists in other states
- The types of data available for comparing state to state
- Which states are successful at addressing their waiting lists and best practices used

Commissioner Macy stated that there is no single definition and no uniform methodology used across the country and said that NASDDDS recognized this to be an issue and assigned a work group to develop more uniform definitions to permit a better

understanding of the issue nationally. The Commissioner agreed to have his staff research what data is currently available and have them report on the research at a future meeting. He will also provide information on a particularly well designed study by Ohio and look into data NASDDDS may have on national statistics which may be useful to the group.

Based on an expressed desire by the group to better understand agency waivers, CMS rules, framework and the barriers to service and addressing the waiting list, Commissioner Macy agreed to have Siobhan Morgan, DDS' waiver director speak to the group on these issues.

Other topics of discussion included:

- Concerns over the most efficient use of state and federal funds and the ability to look at the system as a whole
- The difficulty in looking at the waiting list in isolation without examining other factors such as less expensive settings, federal requirements, etc.
- Re-examination of the PRAT process
- Understanding the current delivery system and numbers of individuals served at what cost
- What is happening to families while they remain on waiting lists including what supports they may be receiving
- The focus on person-centered planning and integrating people into the community

Recognizing that this is a lot of material to synthesize, the group decided to prioritize the focus of the discussion to 4 or 5 main topics in order to meet the deadline for producing a report by December 15, 2014.

These topics may include:

- Examination of the current DDS system for providing IDD services
- The PRAT process
- National perspective and comparison of data
- Cost projections
- Barriers to the process, including CMS issues

There was some discussion about breaking into subcommittees in order to more effectively meet tight deadlines. While a suggestion was made to send ideas for subcommittees, it was decided that it would be useful for the entire group to hear the presentations by DDS staff on the major topics described previously and decide afterward whether there was a need to do subcommittee work.

Schedule of Future Meetings Dates/Times – Co-chair Slifka surveyed the group to determine how often the group would like to meet and it was decided that meetings would be held two times per month on the second and fourth Thursdays.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 10, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. Room to be determined.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.