

Self-Direction Advisory Board

September 4, 2024

Attendance: See attached

Nancy Alterio called the meeting to order.

Liz Sandblom read the roll call.

Nancy asked for motions to accept the 6.5.24 minutes.

First Motion: Robin Foley

Second Motion: Cindy Thomas

Motion passed unanimously.

Ann: nothing in the minutes that refers to self-advocates and their feelings. Completely relates to what people are thinking finically and what DDS is doing financially. Doesn't reflect how self-advocates feel and strictly about services.

Nancy: appreciate the vision of the Real Lives Law but the minutes reflect what occurs in the meeting.

Leo: Having a little more input time could solve some of Anne's concerns.

Liz F. I would echo Leo's comment. There are certain topics that may need more discussion time.

DDS Updates: Sarah Peterson

Commissioner Ryder retired last week after 29 years working for the Department. 6 years as Commissioner.

Regulations still in the review process.

New initiatives: introduction of a person-centered assessment in the SIS A tool which will assess needs in more consistent transparent way.

Publication of the regulations will also be an important step in the innovation of services. Appreciate the partnership of this group and the input provided on the regulations. Important to have honest conversations.

Karla Murphy has resigned from the board and has been serving as a board member since 2018.

Leo Sarkisian will be transitioning out of the board upon retirement. This will be his last meeting.

Nancy: we appreciate what the Arc has done to support the advisory board and everything they do through the disability system. Enhanced lives of people with disabilities.

Questions/Comments: (none)

Regional Updates: Amy Nazaire

Switching to a new fiscal intermediary. We have our conference coming up in October. We will be conducting a Vietnamese info session and continue with the monthly info sessions and will have training later this month for service coordinators. SD has tripled in size over the past 10 years.

Questions/Comments:

Is the PowerBI public?

Amy: no, it's internal

Jaclyn: There is public SharePoint and PowerBI site being worked on. I can follow up to see if there is a completion date.

Independent Facilitator: Robin Foley

RFQ will be going out in November to find people to be independent facilitators. Individuals can choose from the list to meet their needs. We're taking the information and making sure they are going through the training curriculum.

Robin: we're not looking to exclude folks, but they need to go through the training.

Liz Fahey: If you know someone you can suggest them, and they can go through the process to become an independent facilitator.

Robin: Training will be virtual and accessible to people who are interested in becoming an IF

Liz: They understand the rules and can help people understand self-direction, advocate, and educate

Looking to go live in winter 2025 with the service once we have a cadre of folks to offer

Barbara: how often will the RFQ roll out?

Liz: It will be an open RFQ and will be rolling. We will contact interested people and set them up with the training. We will update the list regularly and make sure the SharePoint has it and area offices

Nancy: Will folks need to go through a background check

Liz; yes

Webinars will be held for individuals and families to learn more about the service in December and January.

Liz: we spent a lot of time talking about the IF representing and understanding the community that they are providing services in. It's going to take some time and we need your help to spread the word. We can host a webinar who may be interested in applying to be an IF. We could use our social media.

Leo: We would be happy to host something as you're getting ready to go live

Robin: Someone who is already an EOR may want to support someone else.

Anne: Plain language information.

See final draft of job description

Questions/Comments:

Needs to be clear that this is not available in AWC

Liz: the managers have supported us in re-sending out the AWC guidelines to providers to highlight the service navigator role. Having discussions with AWC providers about the expectations of the navigator roles. Once we get more into the next steps, we will look at the gaps if there are any and address those.

Leo: We would like to get a copy of the analysis so maybe we can make suggestions and people can make an informed choice between AWC and PDP

Robin: Each AWC provider runs AWC a little differently. That's why we are working with the provider agencies to be more consistent.

Leo: It would be a shame given the needs of people if this doesn't have a timeline.

Anne: What if your independent facilitator is not on the list?

Liz: Right now we have the personal agent code. We're not sure what we're doing with people who have a personal agent. Across the state it has been more broadly used and doesn't match the service as its stated in the Real Lives Law. Hopefully by December we will have a better answer. Going forward, it will be a different code and will be called an Independent Facilitator.

Barbara Pandolfi: Will DDS approve them to provide the service?

General Updates: Jaclyn Grant

Training Day is scheduled for later in September. This is an internal training for Regional Directors, Area Directors and Support Brokers.

The Self Direction Conference is full at this time. We have 250 people registered. We can take names for a wait list.

The Path Forward (SIS-A) continues to focus on a sample group of individual self-directing. We have partnered with a PR firm to help with outreach and messaging.

Questions/Comments:

Employment with significant medical issues. If this person could do this, what support might they need to be successful. Sometimes that's going to be uncomfortable. The assessment is really talking about possibilities.

Anne: Do you have a person with different abilities assessing people with disabilities

Liz: No one has disclosed that they have a disability. We are working with those folks who are being trained and AAIDD who developed the tool is completing the training. Assessors need to have a lot of skills and qualities to tune in on skill and abilities. Not everyone has been able to finish the training and move on to the next step. We are looking for people who really embody person centeredness.

Robin: conference could be a good audience.

Matt: How many assessments have been completed?

Teryl: 230

Cindy: I have heard a lot being done with families Are there any accommodations being made?

Teryl: as we engage with families, we talk about any special circumstances we do accommodate the assessment being broken up, we accommodate where they want to meet and when they want to meet. Individuals are encouraged to stay through the assessment if possible but even if they don't stay the whole time they have been engaged.

Nancy: Is the PR firm going to address the individuals concerns about losing services?

Teryl: Yes

Liz F. What types of people are coming to the training day?

FMS Update: Donna Schierman

Introduction to Acumen's business and employees working with MA.

Questions/Comments:

Leo: Is there a Marion Edwards alternative?

Liz: We utilize MEA when there is no EOR availability. Acumen has a branch which provides EOR services. We want our transition be seamless so we are working hard to achieve that.

Leo: What about people who don't want to take on EOR role?

Liz: That's where the Independent Facilitator can be used.

Robin: Do you have electronic onboarding for employees?

Liz: yes

Liz F: Really hard to get a tally on hours with current FMS

Donna: Yes, I think you will be happy with our DCI system

Robin Start date?

Liz: goal is January 1st. we will be working with Acumen and PPL together to ensure a seamless transition for individuals.

Public Comment

Ed Underwood: SIS-A do they get any sort of summary report after the assessment is done

Liz: Yes, they will get a family friendly summary report

Ed Underwood: How long does that take?

Liz: We will follow up on that and get back to you.

Deb Flaschen: We did participate in the SIS-A I found the experience to be a positive one. My son was in and out and I felt it was inclusive of his participation. Very positive, in depth, and comprehensive. The only concern with the PR where does it go from here? That is something that feeds into people's concerns about losing services, why am I spending this time, and for what.

Anne: How are you going to get the information to the participants in the PDP?

Liz: We are going to have training opportunities and webinars. The communication will be coming out shortly. Right now, we are collecting data and looking to develop a framework of support needs level. How can we create some predictability in services and provide budget corridors? Right now, we need that baseline information to develop these support needs levels.

Teryl: We are going to be working with our new system to try to connect the assessments. If nothing else, we will be able to upload the assessments. Looking to integrate the CtLC tools into the assessments.

Leo: Can you elaborate?

Teryl: we are switching from Meditech to the Hub which will give us a lot more opportunity to be more fluid in our communication internally and in the community. Once an assessment is done, the data is collected in SIS Online and HSRI pulls the data from there to do the analysis.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaclyn Grant