

DDS STATEWIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Location: DDS AT Center-Worcester

Date: April 21, 2017

Attendance

DDS Commissioner Elin Howe, Sue Barber (phone), Maren Jacobs (phone), Lusa Lo (phone), Maital Levy, Henry & Ann Paszko, Sue Loring, Jose Costa, Alexandra Nadworney, Diane Glennon, Bob Putnam (phone), Herb Cabral, Rachel Linehan, Michelle Harris (DDS) and Victor Hernandez (DDS)

Agenda Items

1. Michelle Harris, Central region CAB Coordinator/N. Central Area Director provided an overview of the area. Since 2003, the region has seen an increase in their POS funding, their Shared Living placements and their AFC placements. They have seen a decrease in their residential bed capacity. There is an increase effort to recruit DDS individuals to participate in Self Directed Supports. There are many small towns in the region that provides its own unique challenges e.g. transportation, program options and rural poverty issues. The region has a very good relationship with the DMH offices in the area collaborating on difficult cases. Their relationships with the local DDS providers is very good as displayed at their annual legislative breakfasts.
2. Commissioner Howe provided an update of the Governor's House 1 (H1) and the HWM FY18 budget. It is clearly the best budgets in her time as the DDS Commissioner. It fully funds the Turning 22 first year and annual budgets. It moves the Autism account funding from the Balancing Incentive Program (BIP) to the General Appropriations Act (GAA) thereby establishing a base for future budgets. The budgets also recognizes the changing needs of DDS individuals currently in services. The Day/Residential/ Support accounts reflect this with an \$18M increase in their accounts, along with an increase in the Ch 257 rates for FY18. DDS is exploring the expansion of the HCBS Waivers to include Adults with Autism. The regulations for the Positive Behavioral Supports is

currently with the Secretary's office for approval to move forward in the approval process. The on-going regulatory review process will include Chapters 3,6 & 12.

3. Victor Hernandez reviewed the recent monthly calls and those for May & June.
4. The meeting ended at 11:25am

Action Items

- 1) NA