**Governor’s Commission on Intellectual Disability**

**April 12, 2023 (Remote)**

The Governor’s Commission on Intellectual Disability met remotely on April 12, 2023. Those attending were members: Jim Brett (Chair), Amy Carnevale, Jim Cassetta, Marjorie Cohen (phone), George Ford, Anne Fracht, Becca Gould, Joanne Jaxtimer, Jo Ann Simons. DDS: Commissioner Jane Ryder, Elizabeth Morse, Christopher Thompson, Christopher Klaskin, Tim Cahill, Sarah Peterson, James Bergeron, Meghan Allen, Mickey O’Neill and Victor Hernandez.

Chairman Brett opened the meeting at 3:06pm.

Commissioner Ryder opened with the appointment of a permanent Secretary of Health and Human Services, Kate Walsh. She started on March 1st and was the former CEO of Boston Medical Center. She has already visited a few DDS programs and has met the staff at our Central Office. The Healy/Driscoll Administration released their house one budget back in January and DDS did very well in the governor's budget. We are shy of $2.8 billion. And that represents a $351 million increase from our GA of FY 23. O half of that increase is to our Ch. 257 rates.which goes directly to address workforce and salaries in our programs.

Sarah Peterson, DDS general counsel provided a review regarding supported decision making and other alternatives to guardianship. DDS uses the individual support planning process for opportunities to look at whether or not the individual has had any changes cognitively or with their informal supports that might change their ability to provide informed consent. Our regulations provide the opportunity for the ISP team to look at the individual's ability to make informed decisions regarding financial affairs, personal affairs, medical decisions, etc. As well as whether there are any changes in those abilities over time. Those changes could result in an opportunity to reassess guardianship, look at an alternative and can trigger the clinical team to review the person's abilities to make decisions to limit or remove an existing guardianship or to put one in place where one hasn't been required before. Supported decision making doesn't replace guardianship, it is a less restrictive option for people to voluntarily choose to engage in it. Another aspect of supportive decision making is the individual can build their own team and have one person who helps them with one type of decision making and another person who does with a different type. For example, someone might choose their parents to be involved in helping with financial decisions and another for personal relationships.

DDS Attorney Jim Bergeron, the director of the DDS Background Check Unit provided a review of the process. All DDS and DDS-provider employees with the potential for unsupervised contact with individuals served by DDS must undergo a check with the DPPC abuser registry, MA CORI and fingerprint background check. The fingerprint bill passed in 2004. Prior to this there was no systematic national check for any risk of a person with a criminal history outside of Mass working with vulnerable populations served by DDS. Now DDS can chwck for national convictions per the same offenses for CORI. The DPPC Abuser Registry became effective in 2021. DDS and agencies funded, contracted , or licensed by DDS must check with the Abuser Registry that the prospective staff is not listed on the Registry. DDS/Employers are prohibited from employing or contracting with persons listed on the Abuser Registry.

Jo Ann Simons shared a video done in collaboration of multiple agencies that highlights three families who were waiting for services and its impact.

Chairman Brett adjourned the meeting at 4:08pm.