**Governor’s Commission on Intellectual Disability**

**Dec 14, 2021 (Remote)**

The Governor’s Commission on Intellectual Disability met remotely on Dec 14, 2021. Those attending were Members: James Brett (Chair), Amy Carnevale, Marjorie Cohen, Anne Fracht, Joanne Jaxtimer, George Ford, JoAnn Simons, Becca Gould, DDS: Commissioner Jane Ryder, Elizabeth Morse, Christopher Klaskin, Tim Cahill, Liz Sandblom, Nick Dantzer, Rich Santucci, Julie Ricchiuto, Tom Mercier, Kathleen Walker and Victor Hernandez.

Chairman Brett opened the meeting at 4:05pm.

The Sept 15,2021 minutes were approved.

Liz Sandblom introduced Kathleen Walker the new DDS statewide Director of Day and Employment Services. She is from Maryland. In Maryland she was the Director of Employment and Family Services, and was the acting statewide Director of Career and Employment Services.

Commissioner Ryder updated the GCID on the workforce issue. This is really the primary challenge that has a ripple effect across all of our services that we provide. Our provider community our state operating group homes, and our two facilities are having challenges recruiting and retaining personnel. This workforce crisis is strictly across all facets of the economy. We are working with our provider community, as far as their rates and we have tried to infuse into our system money to support it ARPA for some type of public relations campaign to demonstrate how human services is a vital is important career for folks. DDS has a small collaboration with a number of community colleges in the state to offer Human Services courses into again, offer an opportunity for young person to find out more about human services.

Tom Mercier Dir of Assisted Technology presented on durable medical equipment and current supply chain issues. The current supply chain issue affects durable medical equipment and custom rehab technology which is more of the high-end type of wheelchairs and seating positioning, Major manufacturers have dropped their accessible product for bathrooms and wheelchairs because they can't get the raw materials. The DDS Assistive Technology Centers have lots of machine shops, wood shops, we can build line and build anything we want. What we're trying to do is with some of the equipment that's coming in, the repairs are very difficult to get so we're trying to patch repair as much as we can. The Tech Centers are doing more repairs than usual. Because of the crisis, we try to bring more chairs in and patch them together to make it more useful. We're using scrap and spare parts. Also during the pandemic the AT crew were very creative with the deliveries to people's homes, in a safe way. They developed a protocol, not only for staff, but for the delivery people. They made good use of driveways, garages, all kinds of places to make sure that everything fit well for the individuals.

Rich Santucci and Julie Ricchiuto gave an update on our internal controls program at DDS. Main goal is for the procedures and that in programs that DDS implements are being effective that that were there achieving the goals that we wanted to achieve. Also, that DDS is compliant in terms of how we're performing our duties. They continue to investigate allegations of fraud or waste of state funds and also service recipients’ funds to make sure that the people that are served by the Department are not victims of financial exploitation or theft. We are also working with DPPC on enhancing our mandated reporter training. We also have a hotline so people can call in anonymously if they want or they can leave a name and give their concerns.

Jim Brett adjourned the meeting at 5:20pm