**Governor’s Commission on Intellectual Disability**

**February 13, 2024 (Remote)**

The Governor’s Commission on Intellectual Disability met remotely on February 13, 2024. Those attending were members: Jim Brett (Chair), Amy Carnevale, Jim Cassetta, Marjorie Cohen, Lynn Bishop, George Ford, Anne Fracht, Becca Gould, Joanne Jaxtimer, Jo Ann Simons. DDS: Commissioner Jane Ryder, Elizabeth Morse, Christopher Klaskin, Tim Cahill, Elizabeth Sandblom, Cynthia Miller, Erin Brown, Sara Peterson, Laney Bruner-Canhoto, Meghan Allen. Dylan Lattimer, Rich Santucci and Victor Hernandez.

Chairman Brett opened the meeting at 3:02pm welcoming new member Lynn Bishop and thanked everyone for joining, highlighting the importance of the budget discussion.

The July 2023 minutes were approved.

Commissioner Ryder highlighted the success of an incentive program to fill residential vacancies and develop new homes. She acknowledged the need to evolve the traditional model of providing services, citing factors such as staffing shortages, high property costs, and changing preferences among service recipients, in particular individuals with autism and mental health issues.

Dylan Lattimore, DDS Assistant Commissioner of Management and Finance reviewed the DDS FY25 budget proposal. It includes $2.92B for DDS, a $143M increase over current FY 24 funding levels. There is $485 million available for rate increases across HHS agencies with the majority going towards DDS services. DDS services are expected to see double-digit rate increases, with a salary floor of $20 an hour.

GCID member Jo Ann Simons discussed a technology project called Station MD, which aims to reduce unnecessary emergency room visits for people with IDD. The project is now being revived as a pilot program in the Northeast region. The service allows doctors to call ahead and expedite emergency room visits, potentially reducing wait times and improving care. It could help to expand Telemedicine for ASD individuals in Massachusetts. The goal is to license doctors to provide telemedicine services, reducing the need for emergency visits, improving access to care for individuals with intellectual disabilities, provide cost savings for MassHealth and improved quality of life for families.

Cyndy Miller, Director of Risk Management reviewed the DDS risk management and quality management systems, highlighting the importance of identifying adverse events and potential jeopardy factors. Our incident reporting system identifies patterns and trends to trigger reviews and assessments. The area offices receive monthly reports on triggers for additional reviews, including 10 groups of incidents for example 3 or more unplanned hospital visits within 6 months. Our risk management system aims to proactively address vulnerabilities faced by people with IDD. The prevention focuses on accentuating protective factors and mitigating risk factors. 3% of people receiving DDS supports have a formal risk plan. There are risk management teams in each area and region. They create a risk plan, with a central office team that meets regularly to provide added advice or support for area or regional staff with ongoing risks.

Erin Brown, DDS Deputy General Counsel for Privacy and Records provided an update on the document cleanup at the former Fernald Developmental Center property. The documents were left behind on the campus after it was sold to Waltham, despite efforts to remove them. DDS removed 186 contractor bags of documents from the campus, but it is unknown whether structurally unsafe buildings may contain documents. DDS will prioritize securing a contractor for building cleanup.

GCID member Marjorie Cohen provided an update on HB212, **Universal Changing Stations in Public Buildings**. The bill helps to address the need for changing spaces in public places for people with disabilities, including those who are incontinent and physically disabled.

Chairman Brett adjourned the meeting at 4:20pm.