**Governor’s Commission on Intellectual Disability**

**July 27, 2023 (*Remote*)**

The Governor’s Commission on Intellectual Disability met remotely on July 27, 2023. Those attending were members: Jim Brett, Amy Carnevale, Jim Cassetta, George Ford, Anne Fracht, Becca Gould, Joanne Jaxtimer, Jo Ann Simons. From DDS: Commissioner Jane Ryder, Elizabeth Morse, Nick Dantzer, Tim Cahill, Elizabeth Sandblom, Chris Klaskin, Chris Thompson, Meghan Allen, Victor Hernandez

Chairman Brett opened the meeting at 3:04pm and the April 2023 GCID meeting minutes were approved.

Commissioner Ryder updated the Commission with the current DDS system changes. CMCCS (Case Management, Clinical, and Claiming System) is a new web-based system that is a configurable, workflow-based case management system that will significantly modernize our IT footprint and make us a nimbler organization responsive to DDS business and case management needs. It will replace our Meditech system that was put into place in 2005. Our efforts with SIS-A (Supports Intensity Scale) will assist our current assessment tool which does not include our new/emerging individuals including individuals on the autism spectrum. SIS-A is currently used in over 20 states and has been translated into at least 12 languages. It is either currently used or is being implemented in every New England state except for Massachusetts. The SIS-A is a well-researched tool with evidence to illustrate its validity for assessment support needs and reliability when assessors are property trained. It will replace MASSCAP which was put into place in 2006. Our PBS (Positive Behavioral Supports) efforts improves how staff appropriately interact with individuals exhibiting behavioral challenges. Implementation includes introducing a new behavioral support plan, training providers, and establishing Regional Peer Review Committees. Lastly, with our continuing outreach with Self Direction we have seen an increase enrollment in this model through transparency and consistency by improving our infrastructure and collaborating with the Self Direction Advisory Board, Self-Advocates and other stakeholders.

Nick Dantzer reported that the House and Senate conference committee have not agreed to a FY 24 budget. There was a second interim budget recently filed. For the DDS budget, we don't expect any surprises both the House and the Senate versions were very much in line with the governor's recommendation in January.

Liz Sandblom updated the Commission on the SIS rollout the Commissioner referenced. The assessment of personal DDS support needs is a critical, foundational for guiding the delivery of services for people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities or Autism who are eligible to receive services from the DDS. DDS decided that it is necessary to move from our current individual needs assessment tool, the ICAP, to a more current, person-centered assessment tool the Supports Intensity Scale- Adult Version (SIS-A). Over the next several years, the [American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD)](https://www.aaidd.org/sis/sis-a) will work with DDS on the implementation of the SIS-A. The SIS-A will assess individual support needs and provide relevant information to improve our data and accuracy in service delivery, which contributes to improving our services for individuals. The SIS-A tool: identifies the support needs of individuals from a strength-based approach, is a standardized assessment that measures the supports a person with an intellectual disability (ID) or autism needs to take part in community life, is consistent with modern best practices and in a person-centered format, is available in, or for translation in, other languages, uses a web-based platform to collect and export data, and can customize supplemental questions to meet Massachusetts’ specific needs. DDS is now refining timelines, building a framework, and sharing plans to provide information, updates, and opportunities for feedback.

Victor Hernandez updated the Commission on the Special Commission on State Institutions. The Special Commission on State Institutions was established in 2023 with enactment of Chapter 126 of the Acts of 2022. Its charge is to study and report on the history of state institutions for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities or mental health conditions in the commonwealth including, but not limited to, the Walter E. Fernald state school and the Metropolitan state hospital. It must review existing records in the possession of the commonwealth related to the network of current and former state institutions for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities or mental health conditions. Along with examining the current availability and barriers to accessing, records by former residents, their descendants, and the public. Another critical charge is to assess and compile records of burial locations for the residents who died while in the institutions. It must determine the likelihood and possible locations of unmarked graves at sites of former state institutions. Lastly the legislation is calling for some type of public recognition of the residents, which may include a memorial and/or public education on the history of institutionalization in the Commonwealth and current state of the independent living movement/deinstitutionalization.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:53pm.