**Governor’s Commission on Intellectual Disability**

**September 11, 2024 (Remote)**

The Governor’s Commission on Intellectual Disability met remotely on September 11, 2024. Those attending were members: Jim Brett (Chair), Marjorie Cohen, Doreen Cummings, Anne Fracht, Becca Gould. DDS: Acting Commissioner Sarah Peterson, Christopher Klaskin, Tim Cahill, Laney Bruner-Canhoto, Meghan Allen. Dylan Lattimer, Jennifer Mcgonagle, Holly McCarthy and Victor Hernandez.

Chairman Brett opened the meeting at 3:03pm and thanked everyone for joining.

The February 2024 minutes were approved.

Acting Commissioner Sarah Peterson highlighted the DDS leadership transition, the increase in Ch 257 rates which will help to address salaries and staff vacancies, our increase in our Turning 22 account to address the program needs of our largest turning 22 class to date, the Supports Intensity Scale - Adult Version (SIS-A) is continuing to assess a pilot group across the state with 5 new DDS assessors. The SIS-A is unique because it identifies the support needs of IDD individuals from a strength-based approach. As a follow up to our February meeting which included “Quality Management Safeguarding Systems” to better support the health, safety and wellbeing of our individuals, DDS has secured a medical ethicist to assist with consultation on conflict resolution, treatment dilemmas, and end-of-life/palliative care concerns, along with the continued services of Dr. Deb Dreyfuss as the chief medical advisor to the Department. The Affordable Homes Act signed by the Governor last month, included $70M for the Facilities Consolidation Fund (FCF) which supports the development of community-based housing for individuals served by the Department of Mental Health and Department of Developmental Services.

Dylan Lattimore, DDS Assistant Commissioner of Management and Finance reviewed the DDS FY25 budget. DDS is funded at $2.9B with an increase of $106M over FY24. DDS will be receiving the following additional resources during FY25:

* $366M in Chapter 257 Reserve Transfers
* $8M in Collective Bargaining Transfers
* $12M in ARPA Transfers
* $283M for operation of ABI/MFP Residential Waiver programs
* $12M for operation of the DESE Transitional program

Other highlights of the FY25 budget include:

* $125M for the FY24 & FY25 Turning-22 Class
* Rate increases for Residential Services and Shared Living
* New rates for behaviorally intensive programs
* 30% increase for Shared Living
* $9M (18%) increase for Adult Autism services
* $21M increase to Family Support Account
* $44M increase to Employment and Day Account

Victor Hernandez reviewed the changing landscape of the DDS community housing efforts. In 2008, DDS adopted the Community Services Expansion and Facility Consolidation Plan. The Plan provided for the closing of four of the Department’s six facilities (Fernald, Monson, Templeton, and Glavin). The expansion of the community service system created community options for those then living in the developmental centers. To do this, DDS developed an aggressive housing agenda to increase the supply of housing for DDS individuals. This switch from facilities-based programs gave way to the development of small single-family residences located throughout the Commonwealth. Over time in MA, the number of homes being built has not kept up with the demand leading to a shortage of homes being available. There are now more people looking to buy a home than there are homes available. This created a competitive market for available homes along with limited buildable lots where in populated areas buildable lots are limited. To address this, DDS has developed an integrated housing model to meet the accessibility and support needs of the individuals in this challenging housing environment. This model provides for apartment units that are integrated into larger multi-unit developments, allowing DDS individuals to live independently as part of a diverse community while still being able to receive and benefit from service supports. Assistant Commissioner for Quality Management, Laney Bruner-Canhoto reviewed how licensing and certification reviews these sites for community integration under the Medicaid Home and Community Based Settings (HCBS) Policy.

Chairman Brett adjourned the meeting at 4:04pm.