

Real Lives Evaluation: Progress Report

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REAL LIVES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Evaluation Goals

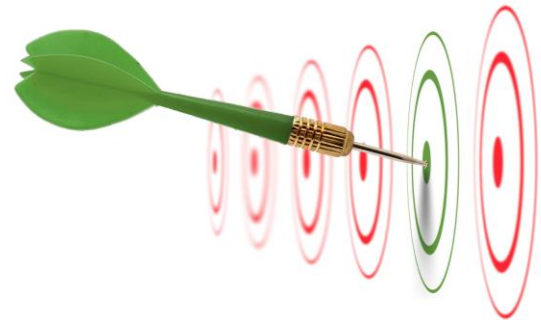
Goal 1: Current focus

Evaluate the effectiveness of training and outreach efforts currently being used in Massachusetts.

Goal 2:

Evaluate the quality and effectiveness of systems in place to support self-direction.

Goal 3: Evaluate satisfaction of services for individuals currently directing their services and supports.



Evaluation Tools



Interviews

Observations of trainings, educational sessions

Focus groups

Review of training and education materials

Review of websites

On line survey with service coordinators/service brokers

Mail surveys of PDP and AWC participants

Mail surveys of non PDP and AWC participants

Mail surveys of family members

Review of best practices in self direction in other states

Review of DDS data

Best Practices in Self-Direction from Other States

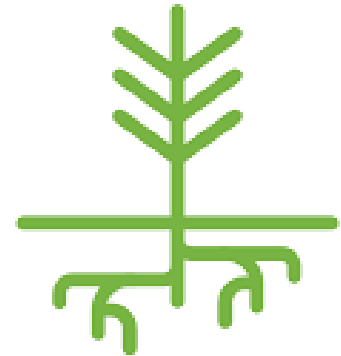
The program needs to be clear and simple with a modest number of self-direction options;

A clearly organized set of policies and steps to follow is a plus;

States that had self-direction specialists who became proficient in helping people decide on self-direction and then operationalize their plans were more successful;

Support from peers mentors and self advocates and experienced family members, i.e., people with lived experience makes a difference;

Special supports are needed for participants who do not have a large involved network of family and friends. Promising practices range from registries to the ability to purchase extra support;



Year 1: Progress to Date



Completed best practice reviews – NJ, TN, CT, ID, PA, and OH

Completed review of training curricula

Completed observations of training and educational sessions

Interviewed DDS staff, SD leads, service coordinators, service brokers, advocates, legislators, and PPL staff

Circulated on line surveys to service coordinators/service brokers

Distributed mail (and on line survey link) to families, PDP and AWC participants, non participants and families

Conducted a preliminary review of DDS data on participants in SD and non participants



First Impressions

BRIEF OBSERVATIONS OF FINDINGS TO DATE



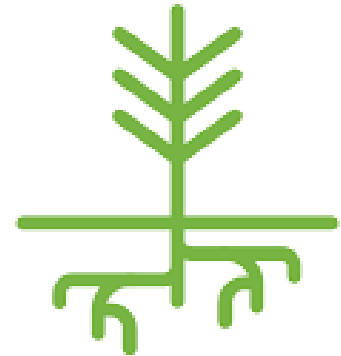
Key Informant Interviews: A few Observations

AWC staff noted the importance of giving families and people with IDD more information about the option and providing more individual support through the agency

A monthly meeting for individuals and families who are self directing that included role-playing and the ability of individuals and families to talk about what's working and what's not would be beneficial.

There is a need for more cross-cultural materials and training including translating materials

Rules and regulations governing SD need to be stabilized so that there is a predictable process

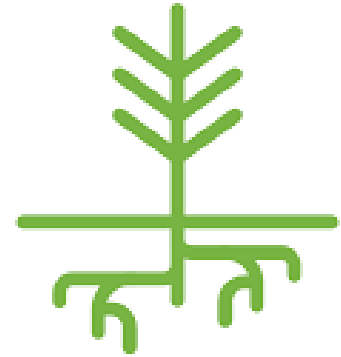


Website Review

There are multiple websites that include valuable information related to the implementation of the Real Lives Law and to Self Direction

However, they are not easy to find, and are not centrally located or easy to access.

Cross-linking to the multiple sites may increase the availability of resources, however DDS should consider creating a short list of the best and relevant materials including training guides, links to PPL and the resource locator website, and making those available in one place.



Surveys Returned to Date

Agency with Choice Participants – 29
(100% of participants – 355)

Participant Direction Program -- 70 (100%
of participants - 528)

Family Survey – 153 (sample of families--
600)

Online Survey of Service Coordinators –
103 (100% of SCs -- 372; survey closed)





Next Steps

WHERE DO WE GO FROM
HERE?

Next Quarter Activities

Analyze DDS data (e.g., characteristics of participants and non-participants, regional differences, most frequently used services by PDP participants)

Circulate non-participant survey

Finish interviews with Real Lives Advisory Board members

Enter and analyze survey responses

Prepare summary report on best practices from other states

Meet with DDS staff

Prepare draft and final Year One report



Questions?

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