**Autism Commission**

Adult Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2019, 11:00 a.m. –12:30 p.m.

500 Harrison Avenue, Boston, MA

Present: Christine Hubbard, Dianne Lescinskas, Lea Hill and Dania Jekel

Remote Access: Kathy Sanders, Joshua Greenberg, Michelle Brait and Olga Yulikova

**Remote Participation - Review and Approval of Minutes**

Christine Hubbard stated that the meeting was subject to the Open Meeting Law and that the Sub-Committee members present would need to vote to approve the remote participation of some members because of their geographic location, whenever any members were utilizing video and/or teleconferencing. Remote access was approved unanimously by the subcommittee members present.

The minutes from the November meeting were reviewed and were approved unanimously.

**Update on status of pilot program regarding young adults on spectrum and self-isolation**

Lea Hill updated the subcommittee members on the status of the pilot program.

* 8 individuals are participating – 5 male and 3 female and ages range from 20’s to late 40’s and they are from the Northeast and Metro region and none of these individuals have funding through DDS
* Many of these individuals suffer from severe anxiety and have been isolated for a long time but they express wanting to get out into the community
* Two provider agencies work with the individuals and the individuals have 10 hours per week of support
* They are all engaged on different levels based on the need – the providers report that they do engage with the families and they are helping individuals to connect with other resources and get out in the community – employment goals are not a focus but could be later in time – some individuals are only responding through text but that is a big improvement for them
* The providers meet bi-weekly and a written report is submitted to Janet George – they discuss challenges and successes – they share approaches on engagement
* DDS and DMH will collect data from now until June 30th and look at the outcomes and see if this is a replicable program or could it be incorporated into existing services

Dr. Sanders discussed the DMH/DDS working group that has put out a request for information from DDS/DMH vendors that serve this population. They are looking at best practices, what they are currently doing, what additional supports are needed and could be developed for individuals with severe and challenging behavior. This should be ready to go out in February and will be issued statewide to vendors serving DDS and DMH contracts.

**EOEA Services and People Aging with Autism**

Olga Yulikova discussed the various services that are available at EOEA. She would like to put together a PowerPoint presentation for this subcommittee to gain a better understanding of the resources and come up with an action plan for individuals aging with ASD. Some of the resources discussed are as follows:

* Home Care (can include case manager)
* Nutrition – Meals on Wheels, congregate meals, cultural competent meals, LBGTQ friendly
* Family Caregiver
* Council on Aging
* Employment Program
* Assisted Living and community housing
* PCA/AFC
* Family Care and Respite
* SHINE Program – free of charge and work 1:1 with individuals on Medicare and prescriptions
* Agency Service Access Point (to get additional information)
* Mass Options – massoptions.org – website that contains all the resources. There is also a call in center and they can triage your call to the local resource you request (844-422-6277)

This subcommittee would like to engage with Elder Affairs and would want to focus on 1.) Aging caregivers supporting an individual with ASD and, 2.) Individuals aging with ASD and their ability to access the supports offered by Elder Affairs. It would also be helpful to learn more about case management and housing. All of this information would be helpful and shared with service coordinators. There was also a discussion of having EOEA do a webinar for the Autism Support Centers.

There was discussion on having the first presentation to include a broad overview of all services, agencies involved, how to access – practical details. A second presentation could be on Housing – assisted living vs. individual living on their own. Each presentation should be 45 minutes in length and the subcommittee may need a third presentation once they learn about the variety of services and what would be most helpful as we move forward.

Ms. Jekel asked if there was data on ASD only accessing DDS over 60 years old. We will follow up with DDS on this request.

**Next Steps:**

* Invite MassHealth to a meeting to discuss recommendation #3 – Ms. Kain will follow up on this request.
* Look at Assisted Living and discuss with Elder Affairs about a movement in other states that allow ASD individuals to live with parents in Assisted Living and when the parent passes, the individual is allowed to stay.
* EOEA will present at the next meeting.

This subcommittee has two meetings scheduled at 500 Harrison Avenue, Boston

**March 5, 2019 – 9:30 a.m. –11:00 p.m.**

**May 13, 2019 –12:30p.m. –2:00 p.m.**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.