**Statewide Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting minutes**

Location: Virtual/Microsoft Teams
Date: 11/4/24

Time: 11 am – 12 pm

Attendees: Chris Klaskin, Meghan Allen, Acting Commissioner Sarah Peterson, Victor Hernandez, Dianne Glennon, Maital Levy, Robin Foley, Maren Jacobs, Maria Damiano, Bob Putnam, Lusa Lo, Joanne Clapper

1. Welcome
2. Acting Commissioner Peterson provided an update on DDS.
	1. Implementation of rate increase for ALTR and Shared Living Providers
		1. Biggest rate increase in a single year that DDS has implemented for Direct Care workers
		2. Improve retention and recruitment
		3. Clinical benchmarks for Nursing and other clinical positions
	2. DDS finally fulfilled it mission of eliminating subminimum wage for any DDS supported employment (group and individual employment)
		1. DDS partnered with Mathematica to conduct a health equity review, focusing on Service Awareness and Enrollment, Assessment and Authorization of Services, provider network and design of Medicaid home services
	3. SIS-A (Supports Intensity Scale – Adult)
		1. Pilot with Self-Direction Individuals
		2. Self-Direction Regulations published
3. Nomination of a SAC Chairperson
	1. Robert Putnam self-identified as interested in running for Chair
		1. Discussion:
			1. Christine Shane inquired: What do you see the role of the Chair of State Advisory Committee
			2. Robert Putman responded: Providing guidance to DDS for example, looking at all the Strategic Plans of DDS (and providing feedback). Also what is important to have on the agenda, for example PBS initiatives.
	2. The expectation is to finalize this process at our next meeting (**Tuesday, December 10th, 11 a.m.**). Per regulations, this process must happen annually moving forward.
4. SAC Agenda Development
	1. Discussion:
		1. Robin Foley stated SAC’s purpose is to be well informed, unifying CABs and be the representative to the Legislators
		2. Maital Levy stated SAC’s purpose is to bring the real stories of the individuals to DDS.
		3. Alex Nadworny expressed interest in having different sub committees to come back and present the whole committee
		4. Diane Glennon would like to see a two-way dialog
		5. Robert Putman reiterated the importance of seeing the Strategic Plan and making sure the individuals are reflected.
		6. Maria Damiano commented she is impressed by discussion taking place and reiterated role of the SAC and CABs is to the be the voice of those receiving services.
5. 2025 Meeting Schedule
	1. Q1: February 19, 2025 – Metro Region; Q2: May 14, 2025 – Central West Region; Q3: July 16, 2025 – Southeast Region; Q4: October 15, 2025 – Northeast Region
	2. Discussion:
		1. SAC agreed due to private scheduling meetings would prefer they be held on a Tuesday or Thursday and hybrid.
		2. SAC members inquired about evening meetings and possibly monthly meetings instead of only 4 meetings a year.