**Self-Direction Advisory Board**

**December 4, 2019**

**Meeting Notes**

Chairpersons:

Nancy Alterio, Executive Director of the Disabled Persons Protection Commission

Jane Ryder, Commissioner, Department of Developmental Services

Members attending**:** Robin Foley, Lindsay Foley, Karla Murphy,Barbara Pandolfi,Jeffrey Paquette, Rich Santucci, Kimberly Truong, Anne Fracht,Valerie Bradley, Leslie Kinney, Julie Flaherty

Members attending by conference call: None

Members not attending: Carol Brown, Leia Brown, Andrea Lunden, John Nadworney, Tom Sannicandro, Leo Sarkissian, Margaret Abrams, John Anton, Jeff Keilson, Julie Westwater

Guests and DDS Staff: Gail Gillespie**,** Victor Hernandez**,** Pamela Hickey**,** Beverly McGovern, Teryl Smith, Elizabeth Morse,Terry O’Hare, Anne Marie Stanton, Ed Wilson,Elizabeth Sandblom, Josh Pactovis, Todd Reis, Nolan Tierce, Brad Keddal, Asela Jayasinghe

**Review and Approval of Meeting minutes from September 4th 2019 – approved**

**Opening Comments**

**DDS Updates**

**Jane Ryder, Commissioner, Department of Developmental Services**

* Commissioner Ryder introduced Rich Santucci as a new member of the SDAB. Rich is the Director of Program Integrity/Internal Controls at DDS. Prior to this role, Rich has a rich history as an advocate for self-determination.
* Commissioner Ryder commented on the role that Tom Lane previously had at Central office as the Self-Direction lead. The hope is this role will be filled soon and that the new person will be in place before the next Advisory Board meeting. DDS continues its goal of advancing the model of Self-Direction
* A final update included a new Department wide initiative related to technology and supporting individuals. John Martin, Director of DDS in Ohio, presented at the recent Commissioner’s meeting. Ohio is considered a “technology first” state and is ranked second in the country for their use of supporting people with various disabilities by using technology as well as direct supports. Commissioner Ryder commented that the technology initiative may fit well with the self-direction model.

**MASS Report**

Anne Fracht, President Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong

* The MASS Conference was very successful and had a very strong turnout. The new venue offered more opportunities and better organization. Speakers and workshops were well received. Ann reports that over 100 people came to the supported decision making breakout.
* There are new members of MASS- one from METRO and one from NE region. Officer elections coming in February. MASS is still seeking for representation from Western MA.
* Members are working on the job description for Chairperson to be more specific to true meaning of self-advocate. A self-advocate is not just anyone with a disability but someone willing to help other people, to speak up for other people, to advocate with legislators, and to go out and teach others to speak up.
* Brian Kremer has been great. MASS is working on an evaluation process for him.
* DPPC continues to partner with MASS to create technology to assist people with disabilities.

**Presentations:**

* Bureau of Program Integrity – Rich Santucci
  + Rich has a human rights background (DDS director of Human Rights); and this experience may help support the program model of self-direction.
  + What are internal controls? DDS is a large Department responsible for providing supports, monitoring services and coming up with creative service delivery models. It is the Department’s responsibility to also monitor for misuse, theft, fraud.
    - DDS looks at all the things that the Department provides (purchases of goods, contracts with providers, etc.) and must ensure that policies are in place to achieve the expected outcomes. Together we look at all the work and areas that may pose a risk with the goal of evaluating these risks and developing consistent processes to address risks.
    - The overall goal is to clarify expectations and implement procedures to eliminate risks as well as monitoring outcomes to make sure we are getting the results we want.
  + A Hotline was implemented so that DDS employees can call in to report any instances with waste, inefficiency, financial abuse, fraud, theft. DDS works closely with DPPC on some of these instances.
  + DDS Partners with other areas in state government.
  + The Bureau provides guidance to field in order to educate them on new processes, clarify expectations and notify them of new requirements.
  + What does this have to do with self-direction?

We need to be sure that the funds are going where they need to go. While we continue with the goal that individuals maintain control over the services they are purchasing, DDS needs to ensure internal controls are in place so that funding is being used as we expect.

* + QUESTION: Robin Foley – parent of a person that self directs, also involved in AWC throughout the state. “When DDS sets parameters, will all stake holders be involved in these discussions for consistency?”

Rich- Yes, however, self-direction is evolving all the time. We expect to continue to partner with stake holders on developing guidance.

* Speaker’s Bureau – Brad Keddal, Gail Gillespie (attachment included)

Brad talked about the accomplishments of the speaker’s bureau.

* + The committee developed and completed public speaking curriculum.
  + The group set pilot goals and activities.
  + Brad and Gail recently presented the curriculum to a provider group. There are 4 new providers interested.
  + A training packed for trainers was developed.
  + A resource packet was developed and disseminated to participants and providers.
  + The course overview presented by recent graduates – Todd Reis, Josh Pactovis, Nolan Tierce.
    - Students end the course with a 5 minute speech demonstrating improvement by all, increased confidence, participant enjoyment on how important support from providers or family was important.
  + Next Steps-
    - DDS will distribute the curriculum on flash drives.
    - DDS and provider agencies will support ongoing training opportunities.
    - The committee is considering opportunities for more advanced training.
    - DDS and providers will explore public speaking opportunities for graduates.
    - DDS will create a list of public speakers or Speaker’s Bureau.
  + Comments/Ideas included “story slam”, Toastmasters, BU class about self-advocacy where people can come and present at a panel, connect with MASS, LEND program at UMASS and Shriver.
* HSRI - Val Bradley – Year 3 (attachment)
  + This is the final year of the Real Lives requirement that DDS has an independent evaluation.
  + Over past 3 years, DDS has started a number of powerful initiatives to spur more interest in SD.
  + The survey results were presented.
  + This year, HSRI looked at the budgeting process for SD and looked at the feasibility to move to a more systematic budgeting process.
  + A full report will be coming out end of year/early next year. This will be submitted to the legislator as part of the yearly report.
* Video Clips- Ed Wilson – Presentation of videos
  + Tom Avery (DDS retired) and a parent in the Southeast collaborated to develop video clips.
  + They will be posted to the website, Self-direction managers have been using them as part of the presentations in their regions.
* Self-Direction Manager Updates:
  + The managers identified important training objectives in the work plan.
  + They created a “tool Box: to complete enrollments more easily.
  + ‘Soup to Nuts” – This is a new training that takes the interested party from the beginning discussions about self-direction to the service delivery. A recent training was held in Worcester at the computer lab that allowed for hands -on demonstration in a “test” environment. January 8TH is the next one planned out at Westfield State.
  + The regular cross regional trainings continue to be helpful.
  + HSRI and Applied Self Direction- National Symposium invited self-advocates to attend and tell their stories. Their presentation was received well by those that attended.

**Public Comment:**

* There was a request for a discussion about the DDS website to be added to the next meeting agenda.

**Meeting Adjourned**

Handouts distributed by email and available at the meeting:

HSRI Year 3 Findings

SDAB Agenda 12/419

SDAB Meeting Notes 09/04/2019 (final)

NEXT MEETING April 1st, 2020 10-12noon

Submitted by Elizabeth Sandblom