Self-Direction Advisory Board Meeting

09.01.21

Committee members attending: Liz Sandblom, Nancy Alterio, Jane Ryder, Rich Santucci, Karla Murphy, Jeffrey Paquette, Julie Flaherty, Julie Westwater, Andrea Lunden, Anne Fracht, Barbara Pandolfi, Kimberly Truong, Robin Foley, Val Bradley, Leo Sarkisian

Committee members not in attendance:

DDS staff attending: Anne Marie Stanton, Jen Benoit, Amy Nazaire, Ed Wilson, Pam Hickey, Victor Hernandez, Elizabeth Morse, Christopher Thompson, Tim Cahill, Terry O’Hare

Nancy Alterio called the meeting to order and asked for updates from Commissioner Ryder.

**Jane Ryder- Commissioner’s Updates**

The Commissioner updated us on the ongoing DDS’s COVID response as well as the continued challenges related to a transition back to in person services.

**Nancy Alterio- Acceptance of Minutes**

Nancy asked the committee to review and accept minutes 6.9.21.

No discussion, Passed unanimously

**Mass Advocates Standing Strong**

* Anne Fracht reported the MASS Board has been meeting to develop a strategic plan.
* Anne also reported the new MASS office space is near North Station and is nice space. Anne thanked Commissioner Ryder for help obtaining the space.
* The Commissioner is meeting with Brian and the MASS Board soon and is looking forward to it.

**Regional Updates**

* Jenn Benoit from Metro asked the SDAB for ideas on new or different things they’d like regular regional updates on.
  + Robin Foley requested updates on the website be a standing agenda item.
  + Robin Foley also asked if DDS could develop a self-advocate manual for self-advocates and parents/family similar to the one we made for DDS service coordinators.
* Pam Hickey provided update on enrollment growth. 1646 individuals enrolled in PDP and AWC last quarter and July #s 1706, a 1.55% increase. Pam also explained that November and February DDS 101 presentations are scheduled.
* Leo S suggested we look at the top 4 things we could do to grow the program and really focus on implementing those.
* Val Bradley asked if PDP participants tap into other staff through personal contacts than staff that work with traditional providers. Pam Hickey answered yes but we also see some state operated provider staff sometimes working a second job as a self-direction provider.
* Liz announced Amy Nazaire is the new SD manager in the NE Region.
* Julie Flaherty asked if the PDP #s could be broken out in more detail such as those with staff lined up when they start PDP and those paying higher rates to recruit and retain staff. There was a good discussion about this and Liz offered to pull together a group that would include herself, Rich Santucci, one or more of the regional self-direction managers and Julie Flaherty and Leo Sarkesian to look at what PPL tracks now and is there a need for additional individual level data in the future.
* Anne Fracht asked if outreach and training on self-direction were still being provided to individuals considering it and Pam explained in what ways this is still being offered.

Next Meeting-

December 1, 2021

Closing- Nancy Alterio thanked DDS, DPPC staff, the ARC and parents/families for their support in making the DPPC Abuse Registry a reality.