

**Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Service Improvement  
Working Group  
Thursday, September 4, 2014  
Legislative Office Building – Room 2B  
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Tom Fiorentino and Jonathan Slifka (Co-chairs), Deborah Chernoff, Judy Dowd, Terry Edelstein, Terry Macy, Morna Murray, Andrea Barton Reeves, Lisa Roland, Varian Salters, Leslie Simoes, Barry Simon, Tracey Walker and Julia Wilcox

Members Absent: Emily Angeloff, Tesha Imperati, and Tom McCann

Guests: Joe Drexler and Peter Mason, Department of Developmental Services

Call to Order – The meeting convened at 2:10 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the August 14<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as submitted.

DDS Presentation –

Peter Mason provided an overview of the following:

- Individual Allocations – the process for determining an individual's LON
- Differences in the Provider System
  - Self-Directed – individuals who receive their own budgets and utilize a fiscal intermediary
  - Hire Private Provider – individuals must have service authorization and fund through Purchase of Service contract or Vendor Service Authorization
- Transition from largely historical rates to Utilization-Based Rates – enhances portability and maximizes federal funds

Questions/Discussion –

Questions mostly focused on utilization and rates; how the transition is working, estimated cycle for transitioning rates, how the rates are built and attendance rules.

Day rates are in the third year of transition and the Individualized Home Support rate transition was completed last year. Rates are based on many factors including the size of the home, needs of the individual and staffing levels. Provider closures are the result of many factors and not solely on reductions in funding due to the rate transition. Regarding funding based on attendance – a formula exists defining how many absences are allowed before DDS doesn't pay for the service. Residential rates for providers are based on monthly attendance and day rates on 90% attendance. DDS also complies with federal requirements to avoid audit issues.

There was a discussion on private versus public services and why public services aren't affected by rate changes. The rate changes are related to privately provided services only. Public services are not rate based. Total costs are calculated and billed to the feds for 50% reimbursement. Public home costs may appear to be higher due to indirect costs that have no relation to actual cost of care. It was suggested that the group have Chris LaVigne, the Director of Rate Setting at the Department of Social Services back to answer more questions from the group regarding rates.

Future Meeting Dates/Times – The next meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. at the LOB.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.