**Rhode Island Developmental Disabilities Services  
Community Forum Notes for Wednesday, May 11, 2022**

**Zoom Online Meeting hosted by Advocates in Action**

**See the video recording of this meeting at:**

[https://www.advocatesinaction.org/DDCommunityForums.php [advocatesinaction.org]](https://www.advocatesinaction.org/DDCommunityForums.php%20%5badvocatesinaction.org%5d)

DD Director Kevin Savage and DD staff provided updates on the following topics:

1. Transformation fund
   1. Phase 1 is to support provider agencies to stabilize the workforce and recruitment, retention, and training for DSPs (Direct Support Professionals).
   2. Phase 2 is to find innovate ways to make community and employment more accessible for adults with I/DD
2. Statewide Workforce Initiative
   1. Working in partnership with DLT and with Institutions of Higher Education.
   2. Working on releasing an RFP to engage a professional agency to help with training, recruitment, and retention for DSPs.
3. Technology fund
   1. Open to all individuals receiving services and have an ISP.
   2. To purchase general technology (hardware, software) that can assist with goal in the ISP.
   3. Request form is online. Work with providers/fiscal intermediaries to submit.
   4. DD caseworkers will review the request.
   5. First deadline is May 31st for review by committee in June. Deadlines and review will be quarterly, so next deadline will be August 31 with review done in September. Will be another tech fund forum in July – date TBD.
4. Rate review process
   1. Working with Burns & Associates, a Division of Health Management Associates (HMA) to help design new payment methodology, determine new rates, and redefine or add services for adults with I/DD. Working with department, providers, participants, families, and other stakeholders. Goal is to finish prior to Dec. 1 so can have new rate model in the budget for next year.
   2. Look for an upcoming video presentation in July explaining where we are regarding updates to service definitions.
   3. Public comment period for the full recommendations will be in September.
5. Caseload estimating conference
   1. Have participated in 2nd round of this.
   2. It standardizes how we set the budget for DD and lets legislative body be educated on the needs of those receiving services.
6. Conflict-free case management
7. Employment
8. Self-directed information
9. Transition to adult services
10. COVID
    1. States will be given a 60-day notice before the public health emergency (PHE) ends. Once the PHE ends, there will be a 6 month transition period before some of the changes approved during COVID expire.
    2. Enhanced SLA – day supports through SLA programs and day supports through family members
    3. Hope is that people can also engage in community and employment.
    4. Working with Medicaid to keep in place some of these initiatives.
11. Andrew McQuaide from the Sherlock Center @ RIC provided information on:

* NCI Survey – National Core Indicators survey
  + Quality and outcomes to distribution of services.
  + 650 individuals have been randomly selected
  + Participation is voluntary and confidential
* Employment and day survey
  + Individual experiences with work or daily life.
  + Survey being sent in them mail
* Work incentives
  + Sherlock Center is hosting online Lunch and Learn sessions for those that are working or thinking about it
* Self-Direct Learning Collaborative
  + Participating with National Center Learning Collaborative to improve self-direction
  + To have a voice in the SD fund created by the Consent Decree action plan.
* Technology fund research project
  + To assess how the technology requested as part of the technology fund worked for individuals

1. Conflict-free case management
   1. Access to case management is a part of the federal Medicaid rules and needs to be conflict-free. This will include all who receive any long-term services and supports.
   2. Technical assistance agency is looking at this plan to ensure compliance.
2. Employment
   1. Jay MacKay provided the update that PSCEPP 3 is coming to end on June 30, but partnerships will continue with ORS and DLT to ensure employment opportunities and support
3. Self-Directed
   1. Working with Medicaid to continue to allow to have parents be paid as employees after the public health emergency ends.
4. Transition to adult services
   1. Parent/Student Provider chats have occurred over last 2 months – links to the videos for each are on the BHDDH/DD website.
   2. Transition Communities of Practice group had a quarterly meeting in April
   3. Resources for information for adult services for those coming out of school:
      1. Roadmap, FAQs, timeline and how to apply and links to local and national organizations can be found at our website: [Transitioning To Adult Services | Dept. of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals (ri.gov)](https://bhddh.ri.gov/developmental-disabilities/transitioning-adult-services)
      2. Information is provided at the IEP meetings for those age 14 and over.
   4. Ways to be a stronger advocate for your child
      1. Contact RIPIN (RI Parent Information Network) – they attend IEP meetings, have peer support, skill development and a call center
      2. Speak with teacher
      3. Contact Advocates in Action
      4. Build a network of trusted people

Director Charest joined the meeting and provided a few words of introduction and welcoming.

Iraida Williams, Director of LAZO, provided some information on this support brokerage organization.

Q&A

* What programs are available for broadband/internet access?
  + This is not an allowable expense under Medicaid.
  + Federal government recognizes issue and is working towards accessibility
  + The technology workgroup will get more information out
    - Resource library on the website
    - FAQs on how to connect and access
* What is turnaround time for requests?
  + Reviewed quarterly. First review is in June, with a cutoff date of May 31.
* Can I get a copy of documents to show to caseworker?
  + Depends on which documents. Caseworker can assist. If service definitions, will be available to all. Go to BHDDH/DD website:

[www.BHDDH.ri.gov/developmental-disabilities](http://www.BHDDH.ri.gov/developmental-disabilities)

* Applying for services?
  + For more information, go to [www.BHDDH.ri.gov/developmental-disabilities/eligibility-and-application](http://www.BHDDH.ri.gov/developmental-disabilities/eligibility-and-application)
* What is the difference between self-directing and agency services?
  + Self-Directing – can choose own DSP and have control of who you hire and how to access services. Use a Fiscal Intermediary.
  + Agency – use agency staff for assistance with coordination
  + Hybrid – use funding for some self-directed services and some through a provider.
  + Can watch a video and find more information at [www.sdsri.net](http://www.sdsri.net)

Advocates in Action Reach for the Stars Annual Conference will be held on June 16 and 17th.