

February 20, 2024

Meeting Opens: 5:35 p.m.

Attendance: SC, AC (remote, travel), DMC (remote, illness), SBC, CC, PD (remote, illness), JD, AE, RH (arrived, 5:46), KM (remote, childcare), RQ, MR, SRL, AM

Quorum: YES

Approval of Minutes December Meeting: Motion to Approve: SC; Second: SBC. Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y. Motion passes unanimously.

Public Meeting Law Changes:

- Justifications for Absences:
 - Medical/Illness
 - Childcare/Family care
 - Travel/commute related issues
 - Work scheduling conflicts
 - Weather
- **Motion to adopt list of justifications going forward: Motion: SBC; Second: SC. Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y. Motion Passes Unanimously.**

Election

- Vice Chair:
 - Sean Connor. Moved: SBC; Second: AE. Vote: A, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y. Motion passes unanimously with one abstention: SC.
- Secretary:
 - Sean Locke. Moved: SBC; Second: SC. Vote: Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, A, Y. Motion passes unanimously with one abstention: SRL

Statements of Financial Interest

- All have been collected and submitted by Sean Connor
- Many thanks to everyone for completing and submitting them on time

Discussion regarding Developmental Disability ("DD") Community

- Sarah Koutroubas
- Parent of a child with a disability and a disability advocate
- Works with area agencies that support people with developmental disabilities and acquired brain injury
- 10 area agencies across the state; each supports 1000-2200 depending on location and area served
- Case management and opportunities for direct service and providing day support services, overnight residential services
- DD system began to develop out of the closure of the Laconia State School and deinstitutionalize people with DDs or psychiatric conditions
- Service system has a history of being well run and supportive but has begun to decline recently

- Feels as if the system has deteriorated to the point that it is unsafe, left as a result of this sentiment
- Mental Health system has stopped providing services to people with DDs who have co-morbidities
- Concern is the lack of staffing and appreciation of individualized needs of people with disabilities
- People coming from other countries with medical backgrounds, may not be able to utilize them to best assist
- Role of parents sometimes becomes full-time caretakers and having to plan for the child's life after the parent passes
- Mental health services do not have to serve people with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- Hostility from schools and programs for children when they are dealing with children with disabilities
- State is lacking in advocacy groups for families with developmental disabilities
- Gaps exist for families without resources to advocate
- History of Laconia State School closure and programs that emerged in the wake of that closure
- Direct Support Professionals make between 12-14 dollars an hour
- DD systems works independently from the choices for independent living management
- Issues with qualifications for people working in important roles
- Resource related issues
 - Pay inadequacies, starting salary for social workers/case managers in the mid-30K; in-home services are 12-14 dollars an hour when LNAs and Nurses at relief agencies pay significantly more
 - Training for the staff to meet the real day-to-day needs
 - Better relationship with the Department of Health and Human Services
 - Better matching of needs to service providers
- States doing things well: Colorado, Connecticut
- Issues unrelated to financing/resources for services
 - Issues with State computer systems not integrated with agency systems, even after adoption of new digitized systems; can lead to issues of agencies going unpaid or unfunded
 - Confusion arises as the State adopts and implements policies and procedures to come into compliance with requirements under federal law and regulation
 - Thinking about the unintended consequences seem to be lacking
- How to gather the information to assess the needs
- How to help families who are just overwhelmed with the day-to-day needs?
 - Getting the information flowing between those who have the eyes on people with needs to make it easier to get the services that you need
- How to work within the justice system to ensure that people who provide the services or are legal guardians to ensure that there are appropriate hand-offs and people do not fall through the cracks
- New facilities do not provide services for people with developmental disabilities
- What can we do to help:
 - Listening and recommendations on what the needs are and what can be done
- What about Colorado and Connecticut work?

- More choices in terms of vendors
- House Bill pending to eliminate restrictions on Mental Health providers providing services to people with DDs.

New Business

- None

Public Comment

- None

Next Meeting March 19, 2024; 5:30 p.m. NH Department of Safety

Adjourn: 7:16 p.m.