

Developmental Disabilities Services Legislative Workgroup

June 20, 2013

Workgroup Members Present: Bill Ashe, Nancy Breiden, Jim Caffry, Camille George , Nicole LeBlanc, Doug Racine, Stirling Peebles, Cheryl Phaneuf, Jackie Rogers, Susan Wehry, Susan Yuan, Marie Zura

Guests and Staff Present: Anne Bakeman, Martha Heath, Dave Peebles, Betty Milizia, Tina Royer, Karen Topper, Theresa Wood

Convened: 2:05pm

I. Introductions

Secretary Racine provided opening remarks describing the landscape of human services and financial pressures at the State and Federal levels impacting many state programs and services. He reviewed the process that led to the creation of the Developmental Services Work Group by the Legislature.

Representative Heath emphasized that the legislature believes it is important to live within the budget, that this not be done through rescissions. She suggested looking at the task in terms of if we were designing the service system today, what would it look like, what would be in it, how much would it cost?

Commissioner Wehry described the numerous activities that are coming together and the opportunity to learn from the past and look to the future.

II. Housekeeping:

- There will be 15 minutes for public comment will be reserved at the end of each meeting.
- Minutes will be brief and will focus on key decisions, next steps, homework and will be distributed in advance of each meeting, with the opportunity for revision at the next meeting.

III. Should the methods of developmental service case planning and oversight be revised?

The work group described and discussed the current case planning process. Members of the work group estimated that about 25% of Vermonters with a developmental disability receive services.

IV. What do other states do?

Marie Zura and Bill Ashe have already reached out to Arizona and Washington State and will provide the results at a future meeting.

V. Homework:

- Develop a flow chart of the current process for the next meeting (DAIL).
- Provide background/reading material (DAIL).
- Provide data related to the current universe of people who could potentially receive services compared to those who are currently receiving services (DAIL).
- Provide data related to the local intake through eligibility process (Bill Ashe and Marie Zura will attempt to provide some information).
- Provide additional information about services and innovations in other states (Marie Zura and Bill Ashe).
- Research Developmental Disabilities Services Internationally (Cheryl Phaneuf).
- Research innovations with technology in other states (Nicole LeBlanc).
- Consult Vermont's Assistive Technology Program (Commissioner Wehry).
- Research tax code and other uses that influence policy, finances and affordability (Jim Caffrey).
- Provide data on living arrangements, changes and comparative costs (Marie Zura).
- Ask Angus Chaney to consult re: housing, availability, affordability (Commissioner Wehry/Secretary Racine)

VI. Next Meeting:

Revisit core values

VIII. Public Comments:

- How many people self select out?
- Changes in service models also impact cost and overall spending.
- The use of contracted workers has not always equated to quality, but has contributed to keeping costs down.
- Another contributor to cost: fewer group settings
- Discussion about self/family- managed services.
- Does the DS system in DAIL devolve to an adult system?
- Permission to allow Independent Direct Support Providers to unionize could impact cost and other factors.
- Need new version of annual report.
- Many parents feel very vulnerable, concern for respect of family values and family preference to manage - what comes next?
- Concern was expressed about how quality of life is quantified and who defines it.
- Cost in VT Versus Other States: Do we know if the data is uniform in terms of who gets served? Data come from the *State of the States Reports*, are hard to discern.
- Note that the 2014 Budget added funding.
- Does current functioning of the Equity committee present a barrier to creative thinking?

Adjourned 4:00pm