

# DAIL Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

## February 8, 2018

### Conference Call, 1:00-2:00

#### **ATTENDEES:**

**Board Members:** Nancy Breiden, James Coutts, Kim Fitzgerald, Mary Fredette, Kenneth Gagne, Jeanne Hutchins, Nick McCardle, Nancy Metz, Virginia Milkey, Steven Pouliot, Christine Scott, Beth Stern

**Guests:** Jill Olsen

**State Employees:** Monica Hutt, Camille George, Bill Kelly, Liz Perreault

Due to poor traveling conditions the February DAIL Advisory Board meeting was cancelled. However, an hour-long conference call was scheduled to give the advisory board the opportunity to hear the highlights of the budget testimony Commissioner Hutt gave to both the House and Senate Appropriation Committees.

Commissioner Hutt quickly went over the **Summary of Changes from SFY 18 Base Budget to SFY 19 Proposed Budget** document within the Budget Testimony document. Commissioner Hutt highlighted a few important numbers and facts to those on the conference call:

- The overall increase in the budget from SFY 18 to SFY 19 is approximately 2.5% increase.
- The total change in gross dollars from SFY 18 to SFY 19 is \$11,826,513
- DAIL SFY 19 had an increase of \$5,258,951.
- DVHA SFY 19 line is on the summary because the funding for Choices for Care sits in the DVHA budget, although DAIL is responsible for managing it. There have been proposals to move the funding into the DAIL budget, but that has not gone through so for now, it will continue to show in the budget as DVHA – that line shows an increase of \$6,567,562.
- Under Adult Services Grants there are reductions to the Attendant Care program for underutilization. These were included in the SFY 18 Budget Adjustment and did not have an impact on program participants.
- Attendant Services Program GF only part of the program is also proposed to be eliminated from the budget for SFY 19 with a savings of \$1,389,547.
- There are also increases throughout the budget for allocating money for implementing the Sick Leave Legislation.

Some concern was voiced over the proposed elimination of the GF only part of the Attendant Services Program with Advisory Board members asking what will come of the 43 people who are now served by that program? DAIL is working to see if the people using this program qualify for other programs such as Choices for Care. It is the population that is now being served by the

Attendant Services GF part of the program who don't qualify for Medicaid that is the most concerning.

People who use the GF only part of the Attendant Services Program recently received a letter from DAIL explaining what may happen to the program. For now, though, nothing has changed, and they will continue to receive the same services as they have been. The letter also laid out other options that could be available if that part of the program is eliminated.

Commissioner Hutt will email the template to the Advisory Board of the letter that went to the Attendant Services recipients.

The Veteran's Home is now showing in our budget, which is new. While the change shows an up in the DAIL budget, overall the change will result in a net decrease in other parts of the State budget.

The grant, **Money Follows the Person**, is winding down and will end.

Commissioner Hutt opened the line for questions.

Jill Olsen asked about the bill that asks for a Vermont minimum wage increase and if DAIL was working to educate legislators the potential impact an increase like that could have for consumers who will have to take the same amount of money to pay for services and have less because they will have to pay at a higher rate. Commissioner Hutt stated that DAIL was certainly trying to inform legislators the possible implications of this bill if it passes.

Another opportunity to educate the general population is around the proposed bill that would reduce the amount of tax older Vermonters would have to pay on their Social Security income based on their income. It is important for people to understand how this would significantly help our older population who continue to contribute to our communities in countless ways.

There is an Older Vermonters Caucus that is meeting on February 22 at 8:00 A.M. Beth Stern will send out the details. The caucus meets every other Thursday.

**Meeting was adjourned**      **2:00**