

Notes from the ACQ Exec. Comm. Listening Session

5/15/24 (revised)

36 Participants

1. An issue was expressed regarding the lack of residential services for people under the age of 18 years old who are returning from out-of-state placements.
2. Programs are needed for people on the spectrum who also have substance abuse issues.
3. Concern that Mi Via vendors are not being treated equitably financially. The vendor rates are significantly lower than traditional DD waiver providers and Mi Via vendors are also not eligible for the backpay that traditional DD waiver providers will receive.
4. DDSD responded that it will be reviewing all service rates across all waivers and will be looking specifically at the rate disparities.
5. People expressed optimism that they are seeing improvements, specifically in the Category of Eligibility processing.
6. There are now problems with the Level of Care interfacing properly with ASPEN and Omnicaid as well as new individuals attempting to access waiver services for the first time.
7. People choosing the Supports waiver are having challenges communicating effectively with the Institutional Care Unit.
8. There are challenges across the system accessing services, it is hard to find providers.
9. A self-advocate utilizing Mi Via services expressed great satisfaction with their Mi Via services. The paperwork is a lot less. She thinks her staff should be paid more money as they work very hard.
10. The wait list as of April 26, 2024, is 734 people. There is currently no announcement or date set for a new allocation. DDSD will review a plan for allocating people on the waiting list.
11. DDSD continues to look for suggestions on improving employment outcomes for people using waiver services.
12. Financial concerns need to be addressed to the legislators; this is not an issue that DDSD has control over.
13. People who wish are encouraged to advocate for increased funding, including supporting ongoing initiatives to increase pay for direct support staff.
14. Accurate information needs to be provided to the legislators. Suggestion that maybe the ACQ provide legislators with a fact sheet on pertinent subjects.
15. The ACQ needs to revise its By-Laws to change the wording of DDSD and HSD to the new Health Care Authority.
16. There was concern that young children with ASD diagnoses were getting denial letters, as substantial functional limitations or IQ scores aren't identified at an early age. It was noted that the previous pend status served as a placeholder for them. A request was made to reconsider pend for children with ASD.