

Developmental Disabilities Sub-Committee
February 17, 2021

Present: Brian Hart, Leisa Alger, Pam Overdurf, Melissa Stafford, Rene' Snyder, David Andreine, Rebecca Robertshaw, AJ Kircher, Carey Peters, AJ Kircher, Leisa Alger

Excused:

Minutes:

Approved without changes.

Director of Community Services Report – Brian Hart

- **State Aid Proposal:** In the Governor's budget proposal there will be a modification of the 20% withhold. The 20% withhold has been going on since the third quarter of 2020 and continues. The proposal is that the 20% withhold will become a 5% cut with reconciliation for 2020 and 2021 to occur at the end of 2021. The 5% cut will go retroactive to the 3rd quarter of 2020. This new proposal will only occur if NYS receives at least 6 Billion Dollars from the Federal Government. NYS asked for 15 Billion but we could get as high as 12 Billion. This Federal Funding would not be coming until the end of this year, and will be waiting for further guidance. A Committee member stated that they heard from NYS Education that the State said to pay back 15% back to the provider, but they are going to give us the entire 20% back. Will each agency be doing their own thing as to this 20%? Brian said, what happens if we do get at least 6 Billion from the Federal Government? Brian said you probably should put that 15% or in this case the 20% into a savings account and not spend it, until we hear the Federal Government's decision on what NYS will actually be receiving. Another committee member wanted to know if anyone has heard any guidance on the PPE loans, and if they have heard any clarifications as to if the State is going to use it against the providers who received them. Other providers out there are looking for assistance in this area. Some providers are applying for their second round of PPE loans. A committee member stated that OCFS is going to penalize providers for PPE loans, and are going to subtract it from their award. A committee member stated that they were going to fill out a form for loan forgiveness but was told not to file yet because they are making so many changes. It looks like each entity will handle this differently.

- **Housing Proposed Changes (State to Voluntary, and Community Hab Support Wrap Around:** This is also in the Governor's budget Proposal. They are saying it will save 22 Million Dollars. The Voluntary will not receive all State funds. There is no rate enhancement to provide more supports. Brian would like to see more pushed in services. That would help minimize ER visits as well as staff turnover. Brian asked if anyone had heard anything, and one committee member stated that they heard that when they empty a state spot, the state will be filling them with individuals that they had to place out of state due to being full. Having someone placed out of State costs more money. The regional rates for residential are undetermined at this time. A committee member stated that the CCO's are being cut an additional 20% on top of the 20% that was just done. There are 7 CCO's who are trying to advocate against

these cuts. A 39% cut is devastating to these agencies. They are putting something together to give out to others to help advocate for them. They will email it to Brian so that he can share with everyone. The State is saying that they are saving 20.8 Million and are adjusting payments to CCO's for actual spending. The committee member stated that the State does not have access to their financial reports so how do they know what the CCO's actual spending really is? The reality is that what is actually said and what is written means something drastically different. The State wants the CCO's to add on additional responsibilities and at the same time are decreasing their funding.

Sharing by Community Members

- **ARC** – Brian shared that ARC submitted their proposal to finalize the closure the sheltered workshop. Brian stated he signed and approved it but with reservations. Where do developmental disabled individuals go if they are unable to volunteer or work in competitive employment? A committee member stated they were glad that Brian registered his resistance to the closure of the sheltered workshop.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2021.