

**Developmental Disabilities Services *Imagine the Future* Task Force**  
**September 23, 2013**

**Members present:** Bill Ashe, Anne Bakeman, Max Barrows, Linda Berger, Susan Buckley, Nancy Breiden, Gail Falk, Camille George, Susan Hardin, Deborah Lisi-Baker, Lisa Maynes, David Peebles, Cheryl Phaneuf, Ed Paquin, Sr. Janice Ryan, Susan Ryan, Karen Schwartz, James Smith, Jennifer Stratton, Karen Topper, Tracy Thresher, Marlys Waller, Susan Wehry, Theresa Wood, Marie Zura

**Members absent:** Max Barrows, Jackie Rogers

**Staff & guests:** June Bascom, Amy Caffrey, Betty Milizia, Susan Yuan

**I. Welcome from Commissioner Susan Wehry.**

- Commissioner Wehry thanked members of the Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS) *Imagine the Future* Task Force for agreeing to serve. This is an important opportunity to help the Department to shape the future of DDS in Vermont. She provided some background about the history of DDS, the current status in DDS, and some of the unique opportunities that will influence DDS going forward. It was noted that Vermont is as Vermont is celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the closing of the Brandon Training School, we are also approaching the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Developmental Disabilities Act. Task force members noted that it was anticipated that the Act would be a 20 year piece of legislation so it seems timely to be looking at this now. Going forward, some of the questions that may be examined include, but are not limited to: to what extent the Agency of Human Services' policy around children's services may impact DAIL's role with children, whether providing more preventive services would result in less costly, less intensive services in the long run, and where DDS fits in the current health care reform effort. It was noted that the work of the Task Force presents an opportunity to "lead instead of to be led."
- Task Force. Task Force members were invited to bring suggestions regarding the name of the Task Force to the next meeting.

**II. Introductions**

Committee & guests were introduced.

**III. Summary of the DDS Legislative Work Group**

Camille George reviewed the Executive Summary of the Legislative Work Group report.

- The workgroup was charged with finding workable solutions to achieve the \$2.5 million savings included in the 2014 Budget.
- Camille summarized the Legislative charges of the Work Group and recommendations that were generated. The full report can be found on the DAIL website at :  
<http://www.dail.vermont.gov/dail-projects/dds-legislative-work-group/dds-legislative-work-group>

**IV. Key Data and Information**

June Bascom reviewed key figures/data from pages 55 and 56 of the DDS Legislative Work Group report.

- Committee members provided feedback on some of the data. Some questions/requests:
  - Is it possible to provide a demographic profile of who DDS has served over time and who should be served?
  - Is it possible to look at the costs of people as they age – are we projecting not just the numbers of people, but the cost associated with age?

**V. Timeline and Sub-Committees**

David Pebbles presented a timeline handout as to what he would like the committee to accomplish by specific dates.

- The Task Force members discussed the suggested list of sub-committees with feedback from the members. Although the list of possible sub-committees was large, Task Force members suggested that a number of areas be addressed, including: community supports, flexible service options, self- and family-management, self-advocacy and public safety.
- It was suggested that the Task Force would benefit from more macro level discussion to create a better foundation and unified vision for the future before breaking into sub-committees:
  - Who are we here for?
  - What are we supposed to be doing for the people we are here for?
  - How do we do it?
  - How do we pay for it?
  - What are the outside influences that we need to consider and shape? Some examples of outside influences include: the creation of Medicaid Affordable Care Organizations (ACO), the new law which will allow independent direct support workers to collectively bargain with the state, and a new Federal Department of Labor ruling regarding Companionship services.
  - How well do we do what we do?
  - Is anybody better off and how will we know?
- After more time is spent building the foundation and broad vision, it will be easier to prioritize the sub-committees and clearly define what each sub-committee will look at.
- It was agreed that the Task Force will meet more frequently and for longer periods of time initially to build the necessary foundation and create the broad vision for DDS before breaking into sub-committees. The tentative next meeting date is Monday, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> from 1pm – 4pm, but this will be confirmed. Task Force members asked that meetings occur in Central Vermont whenever possible.

#### **VI. Public Comments**

- The last strategic planning process was a 4-year process for developing the DD Act and then implementing it. It was suggested that we need to have enough of a process started to support the next System of Care Plan.
- The potential impact of S. 59 (the bill that allows independent direct care workers to collectively bargain with the State and creates the Self-Determination Alliance to give consumers a voice in this process) is important and needs to be discussed at the Task Force.
- It was noted that there are not a lot of people on the Task Force that receive services and it would be nice to see more direct input from them. Green Mountain Self Advocates offered to collect information from other people who receive services on any issues and bring that back to the Task Force.

#### **VII. Next Steps**

Task Force members will come to the next meeting with suggested names for the Task Force.

DAIL will send out a link to pertinent reading/resource materials.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, October 21, 2013, 1-4pm.

Location: TBD