



State of New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

129 PLEASANT STREET, CONCORD, NH 03301-3857
603-271-9200 FAX: 603-271-4912 TDD ACCESS: RELAY NH 1-800-735-2964

JEFFREY A. MEYERS
COMMISSIONER

November 15, 2016

The Honorable Frank R. Kotowski
Chairman, Health and Human Services Oversight Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 205
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

The Honorable Neal M. Kurk
Chairman, Legislative Fiscal Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 210
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: Developmental Disability Wait List – Through November 10, 2016

Dear Representatives Kotowski and Kurk:

I am writing to provide a further update to the Health & Human Services Oversight and Fiscal Committees on the status of the Department and Area Agencies' efforts to provide services to people with developmental disabilities across New Hampshire. This letter updates the number of persons expected to be served in State Fiscal Year 2017 and describes the increase in the number of persons seeking services and how the Department is proposing to manage this increase. Typically, we report on the Wait List through the end of a month. This update is through November 10, 2016 in order to capture recent changes to the Wait List.

The Department is on track to serve a total of 488 persons in the current biennium, which are some 73 persons more than planned in the SFY 2016-2017 budget. In SFY 2016, we served a total of 232 persons. In the current fiscal year, we anticipate serving 256 persons.

Because a total of 115 persons who had previously come off the Wait List prior to July 1, 2016 have required new services since July 1, 2016, and a total of 44 new persons become eligible between July 1, 2016 and October 30, 2016, the Wait List at the end of October was 203 persons.

In response, the Department utilized Wait List funds that were carried over from FY 2016 to FY 2017 to provide services to an additional 36 persons. As of November 10, 2016, the Wait List was reduced from 203 to 176. Because 9 additional persons sought services during the first 10 days in November, the Wait List as of November 10, 2016 is 176 persons. This is outlined in the table below.

Not all of the 176 persons are without services. Of this total, 98 are still receiving one or more services. They remain on the Wait List because they have sought an additional service from those they were already receiving. Under the administrative rules governing the DD Wait List, persons who have come off the Wait List and are receiving services must be placed back on the Wait List if they require additional services. Workforce and provider capacity challenges often impact the availability of these additional services.

Enclosed with this report is a chart identifying the historical numbers of the DD Wait List since 2006. The current increase in the Wait List is not unlike several prior increases in this period. Also enclosed is a chart that tracks the DD Wait List since July 2016 by category of recipient.

The increased number of newly eligible persons and persons requiring new services is significant. At the time the SFY 2016-17 budget was initially passed, it assumed that 112 then-waiting for services plus 150 additional persons would be served in SFY 2016, or 262 persons. In fact, 383 persons sought DD Wait List services in SFY 2016. Thus far in SFY 2017, a total of 256 persons have required services. This number is about 100 more persons than anticipated thus far.

Additionally, while the projected average cost for DD services that was assumed in the current budget was approximately \$44,000 per person annually, the actual average cost for services in SFY 2016 was \$50,303.

In addition to the reasons cited in our earlier report in September, it is increasingly evident that a portion of the increased need for services and the higher cost of services are attributable to the high need persons who had been served at Lakeview, but who were transitioned to the community after the closure of that facility. The Area Agencies have struggled to fill the gaps in service for persons with complex needs that was created with the close of Lakeview and there is a need to increase capacity in New Hampshire at the community level for the treatment of such persons.

The table below captures the numbers related to the Wait List funding activity for FY 16 and through November 10, 2016:

Number of people on the Wait List as of 7/1/2015	+101
Number of additional people requesting Wait List funding during FY 16	+282
Total number of people needing Wait List funding for FY 16	383
Number of people who received Wait List funds during FY 16	-232
Number of people remaining on the Wait List as of 6/30/2016	151
Number of additional people requesting funding through November 10, 2016	+137
Number of people who were taken off the Wait List through November 10, 2016	--112
Number of people remaining on the Wait List as of 11/10/2016	176

RSA 171-A refers to three distinct groups of people as prospective recipients of Wait List funds. The below table provides information regarding the number of people receiving Wait List funds in each of those three groups for FY 16:

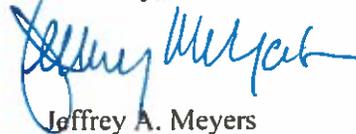
Number of students receiving FY 16 Wait List funds	126	54%
Number of new eligible people receiving FY 16 Wait List funds	44	19%
Number of people with additional needs receiving FY 16 Wait List funds	62	27%
Total number of people receiving Wait List funds during FY 16	232	100%

The numbers below are for the same three groups through November 10, 2016:

Number of students receiving Wait List funds during the first quarter of SFY 2017	146	57%
Number of new eligible people receiving Wait List funds during the first quarter of SFY 2017	23	9%
Number of people with additional needs receiving Wait List funds during the first quarter of SFY 2017	87	34%
Total number of people receiving Wait List funds during the first quarter of SFY 2017	256	100%

The Department is eager to work with the incoming Governor and the legislature in crafting a budget for developmental disability services for the next biennium that will continue to provide needed services.

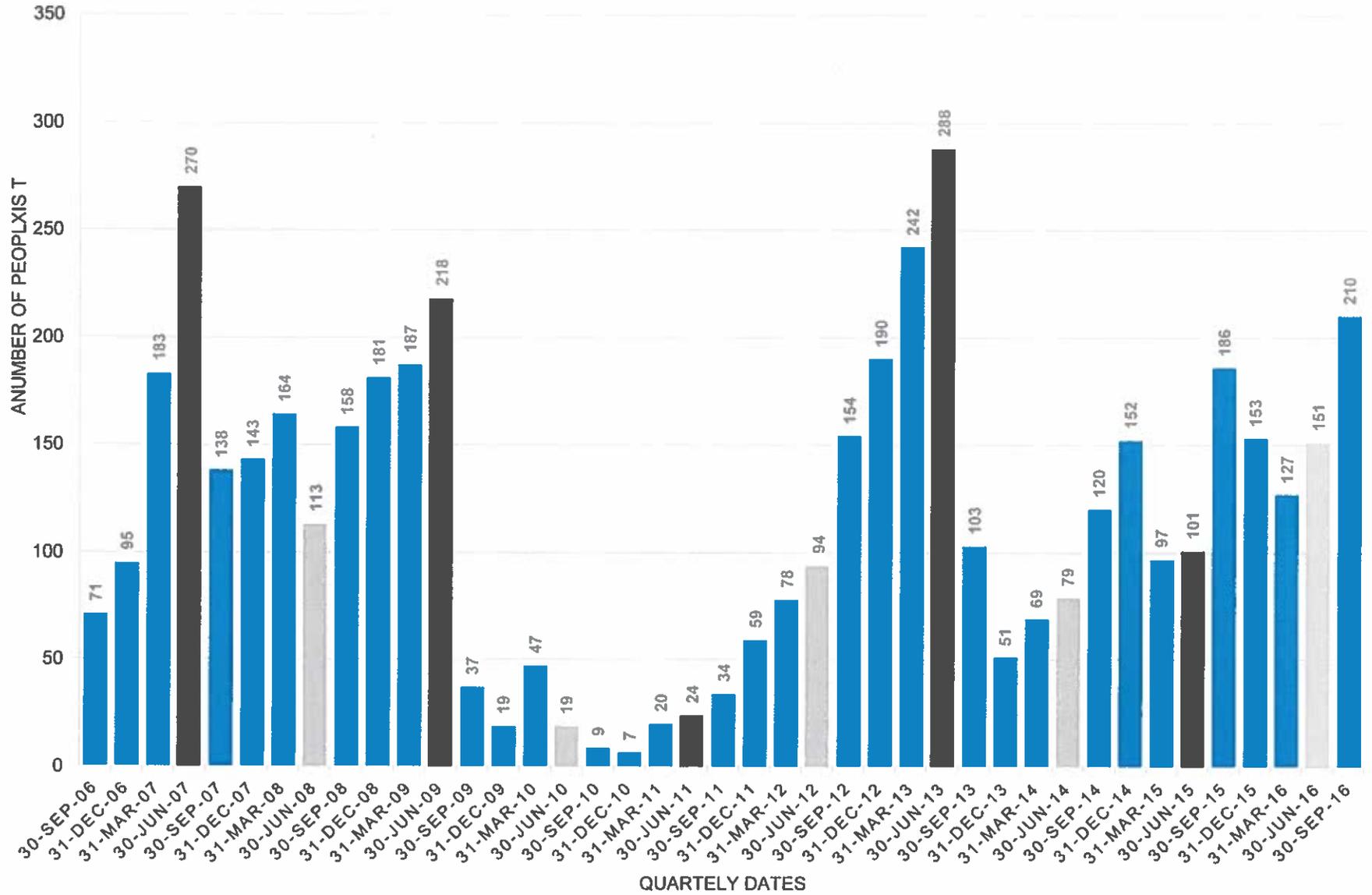
Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Meyers
Commissioner

cc: Her Excellency, Governor Margaret Wood Hassan
Councilor and Governor-Elect Christopher T. Sununu
The Honorable Chuck W. Morse, Senate President
The Honorable Shawn Jasper, Speaker of the House of Representatives
Community Support Network, Inc.
Medical Care Advisory Committee

DD WAIT LIST



Bureau of Developmental Services
Wait List Numbers for the 16 and 17 Biennium
DD Dashboard Numbers- as of 11/10/2016

	7/31/2016	OFF	NEW	8/31/2016	OFF	NEW	9/30/2016	OFF	NEW	10/31/2016	OFF	NEW	11/10/2016
Students transitioning into the adult service system	36	-3	8	41	-6	7	42	-7	9	44	-9	1	36
New eligibles	32	-3	8	37	-1	11	47	-3	0	44	-6	4	42
Those requiring additional services (They have some services currently)	98	-2	8	104	0	17	121	-21	15	115	-21	4	98
TOTAL	166	-8	24	182	-7	35	210	-31	24	203	-36	9	176

People to be Served with WL funds

	Total To Be Served
FY 16	232
FY 17 Original	183
FY 17 Additional	37
FY 17 Additional as of 11/1/16	36
Total	488