Developmental Disabilities Summary

Three key findings situated around systemic operational challenges were:

1. **BDS lacks adequate methods to provide equitable access to and delivery of services to the waiver population.** There are inadequate controls under current waiver operations to most appropriately align individual support needs with access to services. This leads to a mismatch between the amount and/or type of services accessed based on review of standardized assessment results under the current waiver construct (see Ex. A).

2. **BDS relies on a rate schedule which is antiquated (last revision in 2007) and no longer applicable to modern service provision.** Though there is a common rate table, rates are occasionally retrofitted to fit the budget of an individual’s ISP to fully cover provider cost.

3. **BDS operates complex Medicaid-financed programs utilizing anachronistic, siloed data systems** which significantly hinder the Bureau’s capacity to (a) ensure data reliability, (b) provide comprehensive, whole-person assessment and authorization data, (c) analyze service and system effectiveness and (d) utilize data reliably in decision-making.

A. **Spread of SIS Scores by Total Paid Amount**

B. **Spread in Authorization and Paid Amount for Day Habilitation Level 5**

The key recommendations of the report were:
1. BDS should **conduct** a 1915(c) waiver redesign by implementing tiered waivers
2. BDS should **develop** tiered reimbursement rates to better align payment with level of need
3. BDS should **establish** a comprehensive IT system to better manage, report, and utilize data in strategic decision-making
A&M also explored the operational readiness and capability of the State to reduce or eliminate the need for out-of-state placement of individuals with complex care needs.

A&M found that:

1. BDS lacks the in-state capacity to support individuals with complex dual diagnosis (I/DD and mental health) conditions resulting in a high number of out-of-state placements. BDS currently serves (primarily through the DD waiver) 38 individuals who require high-cost intensive care needs. However, BDS lacks access to adequate in-state residential placement options within the current provider network and therefore contracts with out-of-state providers to support these individuals. These individuals, while having a primary diagnosis of I/DD also often have complex mental health diagnosis, increasing the cost of care.

2. On average, individuals currently supported in out-of-state placements maintain an average cost per person of $384,349. This ranges, however, from $192,577 to $488,566 for a total spend of $14.6 million, of which $13.8 million is funded through the DD Waiver. Under this funding structure, 0.7 percent of the DD population accounts for 5 percent of the total DD Waiver budget.

All stakeholders are in general agreement that out-of-state placements are not ideal for NH individuals with I/DD and families. Individuals placed out of state lose access to their friends, families, community, and the comfort of a familiar environment. Developing in-state intensive treatment service (ITS) options will improve individual and family quality of life while also saving the State significant per-individual costs through increased oversight and monitoring.