State of New Hampshire
Department of Health and Human Services

MINUTES
Steering Committee Work Group Meeting
Thursday, 1/13/22 from 10:00AM – 12:00PM Held via: Zoom Webinar

Attendance: Ann Potoczak, Carrie Beth Duran, Cathy Spinney, Darlene Hayden, Lisa Beaudoin, Mark Vincent, Stephanie Patrick, Denise Nash, Ellen McCahon, Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre, Jennifer Pineo, Karen Hatch, Krista Gilbert, Mark Mills, Susan Silsby, Nancy Rollins, Sandy Hunt, Maureen DiTomaso, Wanda Seiler, Alecia Ortiz. *Note: Members of the public who joined as attendees in listen-only mode are not included in this list.*

Please reference the corresponding slide presentation for the detailed agenda, including topics and themes covered in the meeting and corresponding takeaways and applicable action items. This document provides context into areas of substantive discussion which took place during the meeting.

Major Topics and Themes	Key Discussion Areas
Meeting Opening • Agenda • Strengths • Purpose of this Meeting	**BDS noted that written responses were sent to the Steering Committee in advance of this meeting.** **BDS noted the strengths that the members bring to this work.** **A member expressed concern about assessment-based rates and the SIS' ability to capture needs that are not medical.** • BDS responded that the concern seems to be that the tools are not sufficiently strength-based, and that those concerns will be explored later on. **A member noted that they have not yet observed a tool that adequately reflects needs. They also noted that two waivers might add challenging complexity.** BDS responded that there are two components of the work that will help address these challenges. The rate setting process will help determine the true cost of care, and processes to streamline changes between waivers will be explored.

	A member asked why two waivers are needed. • BDS and A&M clarified that states with Supports Waivers end up developing services that promote independence and autonomy outside of group-living situations. A Supports Waiver contains services that promote independence and autonomy that enables people to change the trajectory of their lives to align with what their dreams and goals are. States use a supports waiver for that approach. **A member asked if someone can be on two waivers?** • BDS and A&M clarified that typically an individual is on one or the other. **A work group member commented that one concern with the SIS is how to take something that is so individual and use the data collected for rate setting.** **A work group member noted the importance of person-centered planning.** **A work group member asked for clarification about a potential assessment-focused subcommittee.** • BDS clarified that a rate vendor had been selected and that further decisions regarding a subcommittee are on hold until the rate vendor onboards and the work is further along.
Goals for the System	**BDS acknowledged that the group is in agreement about potential improvements to the system.** **A work group member asked if BDS had funding and political support to make big changes.** • BDS stated that the Governor, the Commissioner, and the Legislature endorse these changes and that the department is appropriately resourced to pursue these changes. **A work group member noted that using the SIS score as a funding tool might make budget cuts easier in the future.** • BDS responded that the skepticism is helpful, and that the department is committed to attempting to make changes despite a challenging climate. **A work group member noted that many providers struggle with recruiting and retaining staff.** • BDS responded that workforce will be a major focus of the rate-setting committee. **A work group member expressed support for IT upgrades.**

DD Waiver & Assessment-Based Rates	**BDS explained that some policy changes are going to be made to address current challenges. These recommendations include introducing a Supports Waiver, changing how rates are developed, increasing ITS capacity, and developing a modernized IT system.**

The Role of this Group
 	
• Role
• Assessment Sample
	BDS clarified that the Steering Committee is meant to be an advisory body.
	
	A member asked if the group is meant to share the information with peers.
	
	    • **BDS responded that yes, the group should share information.**
	
	A member asked if CMS should attend.
	
	    • **BDS responded that CMS would not typically participate in meetings like these.**
	
	BDS asked if the Steering Committee had additional questions about the SIS and supplemental questions and asked for the group to consider what options could be used moving forward.

Next Steps	**BDS explained that questions will be tracked and responded to based on themes.**
	
	A member asked if BDS was considering real-time feedback during the information sessions.
	
	    • **BDS explained that given the large, electronic audience, real-time conversation is hard to incorporate into the information session format. BDS requested ideas from the group on how to improve.**
	
	A work group member asked about the involvement of self-advocates in the group.
	
	    • **BDS noted that the department continues to try to engage self-advocates.**