

Division of Developmental Disabilities Services Task Force
Substantiated Incidents Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 20th, 2019
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Senate Hearing Room, Legislative Hall

Attendees:

Members Present

Laura Strmel
Bianca Allegro
Henry Jackson
Felicia Ellis
Donnia Melton
Terry Olson
Pam Cannon
Abe Traylor
Zachary Cooke

Members Absent

Jacque Lukaszewicz

Members of the Public

Katie Howe
Saundra Hale

Meeting

The second meeting of the Substantiated Incidents Subcommittee was brought to order at 10:10 a.m. The subcommittee chair, Laura Strmel, welcomed attendees and informed the committee that Jacque Lukaszewicz was unable to attend the meeting due to a work emergency and the committee staffer, Jennifer Parrish was unable to attend due to an auto accident. After confirming the presence of a quorum, Ms. Strmel moved on to the first order of business.

Minutes

The approval of the October 23rd meeting was postponed due to the absence of Ms. Parrish.

Incident Data Report

Katie Howe was recognized to provide a brief to the committee on reports compiled in response to State Concurrent Resolution No. 62. The reports are attached to the minutes.

Open Discussion

Ms. Strmel opened the floor for questions and comment.

Ms. Allegro stated that the total number of violations from 2017 to 2018 shows significant increase. She questioned the factors that could be contributing to the spike and the capability to determine the number of persons served. Additional inquiries included the correlation between the number of people served to the number of incidents and the variables involved.

Ms. Howe stated that he could retrieve that data if needed.

Bianca Allegro noticed that in the Probation Data there was one Provider on Probation in 2017 while six Providers were on Probation in 2018. She noted the increase.

Ms. Howe replied that in regard to methodology, prior to May 16, 2018 data was collected manually by DDDS staff. The data was compiled in Excel spreadsheets and all hard files are kept. All incident tracking following May 2018 is collected in WellSky (Harmony) online/electronic system. This may have contributed to increases in the number of providers on probation.

Sandra Hale stated that DDDS inputs data to WellSpring from providers that are not currently utilizing the WellSky system.

Donnia Melton noted a significant increase of injuries reported from 2017 to 2018.

Ms. Howe stated that DDDS could break-out data to show "Fault and No Fault", as data provided does not currently show these categorizations.

Ms. Strmel recognized that we have established methodology utilized by DDDS to collect data. She questioned the use of the data in the future.

Terry Olson expressed the hope to identify trends, provide better education and training for providers, and for individuals to reduce the number of significant incidents. He also stated that good data will provide opportunity to compare data sets such as National Core Indicators. He then asked Ms. Howe and Ms. Hale if there were any changes in decision making parameters regarding the determining of findings from 2017 to 2019.

In response Ms. Howe said that there was no difference.

Zachary Cooke related that environmental factors may be a variable contributing to the increase of incidents.

The following recommendations and requests were approved by the committee to be presented to the DDDS Task Force for vote:

Recommendation

It is recommended to move forward the DDDS Serious Incident Report to include data break-down by the following:

1. Site
2. Type of Service
3. Number of People Served
4. Number of Staff Present on shift. Wellsky (Harmony) does not currently include this data field. It would have to be added to the current configuration to capture this data point.

Request

For FY 2018: The total number of open reports vs. the total number of substantiated incidents. The committee would like to see the number of agencies placed on probation as the direct result of a substantiated incident as opposed to other reasons.

The meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.