

**COMMITTEES**  
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**KENDRA JOHNSON**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
Fifth District



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**STATE OF DELAWARE**  
**LEGISLATIVE HALL**  
**DOVER, DELAWARE 19901**

**DDDS Task Force**

Direct Support Professionals Subcommittee Minutes  
January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Chair Kendra Johnson called the subcommittee meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. Member present included: Cynthia Campbell, Gary Cassedy, Micki Edelsohn, Susannah Eaton-Ryan, Tessie McNesby Bonk, Yemi Awodiya, and Shane White.

Rep. K Johnson welcomed the subcommittee members.

Rep. K Johnson transitioned to a review of the January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 DSP meeting minutes.

Members of the committee provided a few edits and a motion to accept the minutes with the provided changes was proposed by Cynthia Campbell and seconded by Yemi Awodiya.

Rep. K Johnson continued the meeting, noting that SCR 67, that extends the DDDS Task Force to July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020, passed the Senate and will be heard on the House floor soon.

Rep. K Johnson explained the anecdotal stories from providers are not finalized, however she will send out reminders in hopes of having the stories by the next DSP Subcommittee meeting.

Cynthia Campbell suggested the subcommittee ask a family member for an anecdotal story since, in many cases they serve as providers.

Many of the subcommittee members agreed, but Micki Edelsohn emphasized the importance of using provider stories to illustrate the way organization's staff work together and deal with turn over difficulties.

Gary Cassedy and Susannah Eaton-Ryan began to speak about the brief statement they prepared for the subcommittee to encapsulate the data provided by DDDS to the General Assembly.

Gary Cassedy emphasized the day and residential statements were prepared separately to highlight the unique needs of each and explained the data was expressed in general statements.

Susannah Eaton-Ryan highlighted the purpose of the statement is to provide the overarching message of the data, specifically emphasizing the subcommittee has the hard numbers if a legislator would like to learn more.

Gary Cassedy noted the importance of including the fact that most providers are paying DSPs more than the funded rate.

The subcommittee began to talk about the importance of the budgeting process in fully funding DSPs. Tessie McNesby Bonk noted that the Legislator was hesitant to provide more money to DDDS because DDDS could not provide a clear breakdown of where the money goes within each provider agency.

Gary Cassedy and Susannah Eaton-Ryan continued to go through the one pager they provided to the subcommittee, emphasizing the purpose is to briefly explain the most compelling points of the given datasets from DDDS.

The one pager provided a range of the lowest paid DSP to the highest paid DSP, however Rep. K Johnson suggested the Subcommittee separate standard day DSPs and supported employment DSPs given the different nature of their duties.

The Subcommittee agreed and Gary Cassedy suggested the one pager may be more digestible if the subcommittee uses verbiage such as 80 percent of DSPs make between X and Y.

Micki Edelsohn highlighted the Federal landscape for DSPs and said it mirrors what is happening in Delaware.

The subcommittee continued to edit the one pager and the group agreed to continue work separately until the next scheduled meeting.

Susannah Eaton-Ryan highlighted the edited version should not exceed one page to maintain conciseness.

Gary Cassedy agreed and emphasized if each person redrafts the one pager, the group can pull together the best parts.

The subcommittee agreed to work on the day provider one pager and discuss the residential provider one pager at the next meeting.

Rep. K Johnson adjourned the meeting at 11:54 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Sophia Vassar

**Public Comment:**

N/A