



Birth to Three Parent Fee Increase – Timing of Federal Review and Implementation

The federal notice and comment period ended December 2009. The amended application has been submitted to the federal government. Implementation is planned for January 1, 2010. The regulatory notice and comment period has ended as well. Our submission to the Regulations Review Committee is planned for early 2010.



DDS Conversion of 17 Group Homes - Update

To date, thirteen homes have been awarded to providers. We anticipate the actual transition of homes to start in February. A second RFP was issued on December 15, 2009 for four homes.



Funding Reduction for Transportation

We will achieve the level of cuts required. Providers will be asked to make transportation efficiencies and we will use money made available through vacancies or underutilization of individual budgets. We will continue to look for other ways to achieve the savings without reducing transportation for consumers.



Rate Study Committee and Pilot Program

DDS has appointed its three members. The legislation requires the Speaker and Senate President to appoint the chairpersons, and the chairpersons are required to schedule the first meeting. DSS has identified administrative staff to help the committee once all members have been identified, chairpersons have been selected and a first meeting date is set.



DDS Memo Regarding HIPAA Requirements – Encryption Software

This issue was recently clarified in the most recent edition of Executive Briefs that went to all providers.



One Time Funding – Availability of Funding for FY 10 and FY 11

The regions were given some funding in their FY 10 allocations to address unmet needs. They are analyzing how much of this will remain available considering the recent rescissions and will communicate with providers who have made requests.



Update on H1N1 – DDS Protocols and Available Resources

There is information posted on the DDS website including updates, a guide for employees and a video on protocols. DDS uses the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) and Center for Disease Control (CDC) websites for the most current and accurate information. Links to these are available on the DDS website.

Providers have been asked to update their COOP plans and are responding to a survey regarding their need for vaccines if DPH is able to make them available through DDS.

Rescissions on November 5

SID	Amount of Rescission
Personal Services	3,756,647
Equipment	5
Clinical Services	170,000
Community Temporary Support Services	3,366
Community Respite Care Programs	16,517
Pilot Program for Autism Services	76,259
Family Reunion Program	3,000

Rescissions on November 24

SID	Amount of Rescission
Cooperative Placements	604,868
Voluntary Services	653,848
Employment Opportunities and Day Services	3,756,647



Questions Related to the Governor's Deficit Mitigation Plan and Rescissions

I. When do rescissions take effect?

Some rescissions are currently in effect. The savings associated with the rescissions must be achieved by the end of the fiscal year.



Questions Related to the Governor's Deficit Mitigation Plan and Rescissions

2. If the rescissions are effective 1/1/10 and the cut is 2% across the line item, does this mean that the actual cut between 1/1/10 and 6/30/10 is actually 4%?

At this time, the department does not plan to make any across the board percentage reductions.



Questions Related to the Governor's Deficit Mitigation Plan and Rescissions

3. Will human services cuts be “managed” by freezing access to services? Creating waiting lists for services? Limiting the hours of service? Limiting the scope of services? Transitioning individuals being served out of service? Reducing rates? Consolidating programs?

Cuts in forensics (Cooperative Placements), VSP, autism and the \$250,000 in day services will be achieved by delaying the start of new placements, maintaining a waiting list for VSP, recouping funding when a vacancy occurs, and from underutilization. DDS is implementing an attendance based reimbursement system to achieve the 3.6 million dollar savings in day services. We do not anticipate reducing existing services to waiver participants. There will continue to be waiting lists for new applicants to services.



Questions Related to the Governor's Deficit Mitigation Plan and Rescissions

4. What is the impact of consumers not able to access service, denied service or receiving reduced services?
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Individuals on the waiver will continue to have access to the services they receive and the department will make every effort to address their identified unmet health and safety needs. Individuals not yet receiving services will be placed on waiting lists. They can access limited family support services through their case manager or the regional help lines.



Questions Related to the Governor's Deficit Mitigation Plan and Rescissions

5. What is the impact on families if their family members cannot access services?
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Family members will continue the significant responsibility they have for their relative who lives with them. We don't foresee anyone losing current supports and services.



Questions Related to the Governor's Deficit Mitigation Plan and Rescissions

6. What is the impact on residential services if individuals lose access to employment opportunities/day services?

We do not anticipate this occurring.



Questions Related to the Governor's Deficit Mitigation Plan and Rescissions

7. What is the impact on communities if individuals no longer have access to mental health, substance abuse or services that support individuals with developmental disabilities? Increased use of emergency rooms, hospitals or prisons?

DDS is continuing to work with DMHAS and mental health providers offering inpatient services to assure continued access.



Questions Related to the Governor's Deficit Mitigation Plan and Rescissions

8. Which services are considered entitlements: Medicaid fee for service and Medicaid waiver services?

Individuals on Medicaid are entitled to receive case management services. Individuals enrolled in a HCBS waiver are required to receive services to meet their health and safety needs.

9. DDS Budget

- What services are provided through Clinical Services Account?

The clinical services account primarily supports individuals in public services. This account does not provide the basis for funding individual budgets. We do not anticipate significant impact on our consumers from the reduction in this account.



Questions Related to the Governor's Deficit Mitigation Plan and Rescissions

- How would HCB waiver funding be impacted by the employment opportunities and day program cut? What happens if the funding cut means that an agency can no longer meet the needs of the consumer?
If the agency can no longer meet the needs of the consumers, DDS will need to assist the consumer to locate another qualified provider.



Questions Related to the Governor's Deficit Mitigation Plan and Rescissions

- What happens to the consumers who would have enrolled in the Voluntary Service Program? Will they be able to receive any services from the Department?

Children who live at home can apply to use respite and other family support services.



Questions Related to the Governor's Deficit Mitigation Plan and Rescissions

- How many individuals will not get service as a result of the Autism Pilot reduction? How many clients was the program initially planned to serve and how many will get services by the end of this fiscal year?

The autism pilot was funded to serve up to 75 individuals. Currently, 57 people are enrolled and 4 others are being reviewed for eligibility. The reduction to this account will be achieved as a result of participants using less service than originally requested and by delaying the start dates for new applicants.



Questions Related to the Governor's Deficit Mitigation Plan and Rescissions

- What is the impact of the cuts to cooperative placements program?

DDS will delay the starting dates for new people. Current individuals served under this account who live alone or whose costs exceed \$175,000 will be reviewed this year by the regional utilization committees to determine if reductions are warranted.