

EOHHS TASK FORCE MEETING
December 15, 2014
MEETING MINUTES

Attendance: Jim Nyberg, Mike Walker, Nicholas Oliver, Kathleen Kelly, Virginia Burke, Maureen Maigret, Anne Mulready, Denise Achin, Vivian Weisman, Jacqueline Dowdy, Patrice Cooper, Ken Pariseau, Joan Kwiatowski, Rebecca Kislak, Joanne Malise, Linda A’Vant-Desishinni, Lisa Conlan Lewis, Sharon Terzian, Kim Merolla Brito, Rhonda Schwartz, Amanda Clarke, Lee Baker, Mary Elizabeth Slinko, Janet Iovino, Deborah Garneau, Tina Spears, Kevin Nemry, Thomas Marcello, Kim Sanchez, Randi Belhumeur, Joanne Savoie, Michelle Brophy, Jillian Jagling, Teresa Mota, Jennifer Reid, Michelle Szylin, Linnea Tuttle, John Mansolillo, Steven Patriarca, Anthony Salvo, Sen. Tom Izzo, Jacqueline Kelley

Andrew McQuaide, Office of Management and Budget, spoke to the Task Force on the U.S. Department of Justice consent decree with Rhode Island. The DOJ decree came about when it was found that RI had violated Title II under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Individuals were being sent from the Birch School to Training Thru Placement. At this location, participants were limited to menial, repetitive work for low wages. Rhode Island agreed to move the current system forward and to adhere to a strict timeframe set in place between DOJ and the state. The state must rethink its funding strategy and service model for integrated day services. This work will occur over the next 10 years with the DOJ and a federal monitor. The decree only affects those individuals with developmental disabilities. These individuals must be granted the ability the option to choose the time, place and people for their placements. Under the decree, individuals will be guided on how to better navigate the supports that exist in the community.

Elena Nicolella, EOHHS, gave an overview of the final rule on home and community-based services. EOHHS will be providing the federal government with a plan on how the state will comply with this final rule. Under the final rule, the system will become more person directed and will be more transparent. Rhode Island will be focusing on how we can use this opportunity to make a person-directed system that complies with the Olmstead decision. EOHHS will be reaching out to the developmentally disabled community, DCYF and providers.

Jacqueline Kelley, EOHHS, provided the Task Force with an update on the No Wrong Door Grant. The RFP for the grant recently went out to bid. EOHHS will be submitting an evaluation to Purchasing. There will be more detailed information at the January 2015 Task Force meeting.