State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
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JEFFREY A. MEYERS
COMMISSIONER

June 13, 2017

The Honorable Frank R. Kotowski, Chairman
Health and Human Services Oversight Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 205
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

The Honorable Neal M. Kurk, Chairman
Legislative Fiscal Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 210
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: Developmental Disability Wait List – Through May 31, 2017

Dear Representatives Kotowski and Kurk:

I am writing to provide a further update to the Health and Human Services Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Committee on the status of the Department and Area Agencies' efforts to provide services to people with developmental disabilities across New Hampshire. This letter updates the number of people expected to be served in State Fiscal Year 2017 and describes the increase in the number of people seeking services and how the Department has managed this increase. The data in this letter is through May 31, 2017.

The Department is on track to serve a total of 520 people in the current biennium, which are some 105 people more than planned in the SFY 2016-2017 budget. In SFY 2016, we served a total of 232 people. In the current fiscal year, we will serve 288 people. This number is higher than previously anticipated as a result of continued work and collaboration with the area agencies to move dollars that would otherwise lapse to serve people and take them off the waiting list.

Because a total of 115 people who had previously come off the Wait List prior to July 1, 2016, have required new services since July 1, 2016, and a total of 44 new people became eligible between July 1, 2016, and October 30, 2016, the Wait List at the end of October was 203 people.

In response, the Department utilized Wait List funds that were carried over from FY 2016 to FY 2017 to provide services to an additional 70 people during October and November; the Wait List at the end of November was 161 people. As of February 28, 2017, the Wait List grew to 200 people and as of March 31, 2017, the number grew to 224 people waiting for services. As of April 30, 2017, the Wait List decreased to 211 people waiting for services. As of May 31, 2017, the Wait List grew to 233 people waiting for services. This increase was anticipated as we get close to the end of the State Fiscal Year. The Department continues to work very closely with the area agencies to serve people with Wait List dollars that become available due to a number of reasons, including, but not limited to: changes in the services from what was originally planned, reduction in the cost of services versus what was projected, and people deciding they may not be ready for services at this time. This enabled us to serve an additional 32 people who were waiting for services. The Wait List is fluid and while we are working with the area agencies to handle crisis situations and move dollars as we can, we do expect this number to increase between now and the end of June, as students continue to transition from the school system to the adult service system. Attached to this letter is a chart that tracks the DD Wait List since July 2016 by category of recipient.

Not all of the 233 people are without services. Of this total, 136 are receiving one or more service. They are on the Wait List because of a change in need and/or circumstance and they are seeking additional services from those they are currently receiving. Under the administrative rules governing the DD Wait List, people who have come off the Wait List and are receiving services must be placed back on the Wait List if they require additional services. Workforce and provider capacity challenges often impact the availability of these additional services.

The increased number of newly eligible people and those requiring new services is significant. At the time the SFY 2016-17 budget was initially passed, it assumed that 112, then waiting for services, plus 150 additional people would be served in SFY 2016, or 262 people. In fact, 383 people sought DD Wait List services in SFY 2016. Thus far in SFY 2017, a total of 288 people have required services. This number is about 130 more people than anticipated thus far.

At the start of SFY 16, the DD system was faced with two significant challenges, programmatically and fiscally, and both impacted the Wait List. The first was the change in the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act. There was a change in law that removed the exemption for companionship services. Prior to this change, staff who were considered companions were exempt from overtime and minimum wage rules. In the DD system, companions were used to provide live-in care. The second challenge was the closure of Lakeview. All of those people served at Lakeview from New Hampshire had to be relocated. All were at significantly higher cost to what was budgeted and paid to Lakeview. Those served at Lakeview were very high-need people and, to this day, the area agencies have struggled to fill the gaps in service for people with complex needs that were created with the close of Lakeview. There is a need to increase capacity in New Hampshire at the community level for the treatment of such people.

Additionally, while the projected average cost for DD services that was assumed in the current budget was approximately $44,000 per person annually, the actual average cost for services in SFY 2016 was $50,303. For SFY 2017, the average cost is projected at $50,197.

The table below captures the numbers related to the Wait List funding activity for FY 16 and through May 31, 2017:

Number of people on the Wait List as of 7/1/2015	+101
Number of additional people requesting Wait List funding during FY 16	+282
Total number of people needing Wait List funding for FY 16	383
Number of people who received Wait List funds during FY 16	-232
Number of people remaining on the Wait List as of 6/30/2016	151
Number of additional people requesting funding through May 31, 2017	+291
Number of people who were taken off the Wait List through May 31, 2017	-209
Number of people remaining on the Wait List as of May 31, 2017	233

RSA 171-A refers to three distinct groups of people as prospective recipients of Wait List funds. The below table provides information regarding the number of people receiving Wait List funds in each of those three groups for FY 16:

Number of students receiving FY 16 Wait List funds	126	54%
Number of new eligible people receiving FY 16 Wait List funds	44	19%
Number of people with additional needs receiving FY 16 Wait List funds	62	27%
Total number of people receiving Wait List funds during FY 16	232	100%

The numbers below are for the same three groups through May 31, 2017:

Number of students receiving Wait List funds during SFY 2017	154	53%
Number of new eligible people receiving Wait List funds during SFY 2017	22	8%
Number of people with additional needs receiving Wait List funds during the SFY 2017	112	39%
Total number of people receiving Wait List funds during SFY 2017	288	100%

The Department is continuing to work actively and collaboratively with the area agencies to meet the needs of those who are in need of services and have begun planning for the next biennium regarding those who will be in need of services. I look forward to presenting this information at the upcoming Fiscal Committee meeting and the Health and Human Services Oversight Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Meyers
Commissioner

cc: His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
The Honorable Executive Councilors
The Honorable Chuck W. Morse, Senate President
The Honorable Shawn Jasper, Speaker of the House of Representatives
Community Support Network, Inc.
Medical Care Advisory Committee

Bureau of Developmental Services
Wait List Numbers for the 16 and 17 Biennium

DD Dashboard Numbers

	7/31/2016			8/31/2016			9/30/2016			10/31/2016			11/30/2016			12/31/2016		
		OFF	NEW		OFF	NEW		OFF	NEW		OFF	NEW		OFF	NEW		OFF	NEW
Students transitioning into the adult service system	36	-3	8	41	-6	7	42	-7	9	44	-14	3	33	-1	6	38	-2	13
New eligibles	32	-3	8	37	-1	11	47	-3	0	44	-7	4	41	-1	4	44	-1	0
Those requiring additional services	98	-2	8	104	0	17	121	-21	15	115	-36	8	87	-4	12	95	-6	13
TOTAL	166	-8	24	182	-7	35	210	-31	24	203	-57	15	161	-6	22	177	-9	26

	1/31/2017			2/28/2017			3/31/2017			4/30/2017			5/31/2017
		OFF	NEW		OFF	NEW		OFF	NEW		OFF	NEW	
Students transitioning into the adult service system	49	-1	4	52	-6	9	55	-2	4	57	-3	10	64
New eligibles	43	-3	2	42	-6	5	41	-13	3	31	-1	3	33
Those requiring additional services	102	-7	11	106	-10	32	128	-10	5	123	0	13	136
TOTAL	194	-11	17	200	-22	46	224	-25	12	211	-4	26	233

People to be Served with WL funds

	Total To Be Served
FY 16	232
FY 17 Original	183
FY 17 Additional	105
Total	520