**Director’s Weekly Summary**

**Monday, February 4th, 2019**

This is the first of what I hope will be weekly summaries to our field of the latest updates from DODD. I hope to include with these summaries a continual legislative update that shows what bills the Department is following, what position we might be taking and an update on activity. These summaries are meant to be shared with any and all that might find them beneficial. I would appreciate all feedback so that we can adapt to make sure that people find them interesting and useful.

Attached is a Gongwer (statehouse newsletter) article that appeared this weekend. They were kind enough to interview me and allow me to share my vision and priorities. I won’t repeat it here as they pretty much captured me word for word.

**Internal DODD Operations**

I have made a change in the leadership of the Division of Medicaid Development and Administration and the Division of Information Technology Services. I have asked Amy Coey and James Gregory to step up as Interim Deputy Directors.

We are transitioning the ICF program management from the Division of Medicaid Development and Administration to the Division of Residential Resources under Deputy Director Ginnie Whisman. We are looking for a more programmatic approach moving forward as we hope the ICF providers will genuinely engage with us in designing and offering services for those with significant behavioral challenges including children under 18. If one listens to the priorities of the Governor there can be little doubt that serving multi-system youth will continue to be a front page issue.

In response to a letter of request from Bridget Gargan, Executive Director of the Ohio Association of County DD Boards we will be creating an Information Systems Workgroup comprised of system stakeholders designed to continually improve the communication, service delivery and customer response of our Department’s IT systems. We will be in touch on how we get this started.

**2020/2021 State Budget**

We are working with OBM on our continuing and supplemental budget recommendations for the upcoming budget along with my Director’s letter outlining priorities. We are hopeful that we can introduce a budget that our system can support and work with. We look forward to working with all on this as we move through the process.

**Provider Certification**

We will be opening up the Provider Certification Rule very soon for revisions. As you know the rule has so many aspects to it that a true comprehensive approach is merited. Brad Singer our Deputy Director of Legal and Oversight will be leading this effort and will be reaching out soon.

Please don’t hesitate to stay in touch. Thank you.

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