

TO: Providers & Interested Persons

DATE: January 7, 2010

RE: REGIONAL INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS— RESTRUCTURING FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

Starting in mid-January, 2010, the Department of Developmental Services will hold a statewide round of regional informational sessions designed to provide an update on current plans to restructure Family Support and some related services. DDS is responsible to procure Family Support services during FY2010 and to work with the Division of Health Care Finance and Policy to price those services under the reform authority of Chapter 257. As you may know, the Department has also been working intensively to submit a set of new Home and Community Based Waiver programs that meet current Federal requirements, while maintaining or expanding opportunities for individuals and their families to choose from a variety of needed supports. The new waivers will maximize Federal Financial Participation in these programs.

Although all aspects of these restructuring, procurement, and pricing efforts are not yet known, we would like to give providers an overview of DDS's goals and objectives under the provisions of Chapter 257 for Family Support services. This will be an opportunity to present a framework for the new array of services that we expect to implement for July 1, 2010.

The list of forum dates and locations are below. If you are not able to attend a forum in your region you can choose to attend any of the other forum dates. In the event of inclement weather, call the listed Regional contact phone number to hear about the possible cancellation of the forum.

Region	Date	Time	Location	Contact #
Southeast Region	Friday, January 15 th	1:00 to 3:00	Plymouth Public Library 132 South Street Plymouth, MA 02360	Beth Moran 508-866-5000, ext. 350
Northeast Region	Tuesday, January 19 th	1:30 to 4:00	Northeast Arc 6 Southside Road Danvers MA 01923	Amy Nazaire 978-774-5000, ext. 386
Metro Region	Wednesday, January 20 th	1:00 to 3:00	The Walnut Street Center 35 Charlestown St. Somerville, MA 02143	Kristen O'Melia 781-314-7532
Central/West Region	Friday, January 22 nd	2:00 to 4:00	Daly Hall at Monson Developmental Center 171 State Avenue Palmer, MA 01069 *	Doug McCallum 413-284-1555

* If using a GPS for directions, you must use the address 171 State Avenue in Monson, MA.01057

Please note that these sessions will not provide a detailed description of the procurement process or the new Waivers. They are an opportunity to get input and feedback on the proposed design. Additional information will be available throughout the procurement process through Bidders' Conferences, which will be held after the RFR is issued, in late winter or early spring.

Please plan to attend one of these sessions and to participate in this important effort. There is no doubt that many of the changes will be challenging for all participants involved, particularly during the early stages of implementation. It is our hope that taking steps to communicate the reasons for the changes and the latest details of our planning work will assist stakeholders in managing successfully in the weeks and months ahead.

Thank you for your interest and your involvement.