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RE: Public Comment on New Hampshire's Proposed Transition Plan to Comply with Federal Regulations for Medicaid-funded Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)

To Transition Framework team of the NH DHHS,

I attended the February 10, 2015 public comment session at the NH Hospital Association. The new rules issued last year from CMS present very exciting opportunities for people who experience disabilities to live more fully included in everyday community.

There are many positive elements to the proposed transition framework and there some areas of concern. These remarks will be limited to areas of concern regarding transparency in the process and substantive participation of key stakeholders.

Who are the individuals involved in drafting the Draft Transition Framework for Establishing Home and Community Based Services Residential Settings Compliance? Was it strictly staff at DHHS? Or were/are other professionals, organizations and stakeholders involved? If so, how was it determined which organizations are participating in drafting the framework? Dan Klein from the Institute on Disability was present, is the IOD officially collaborating on drafting the transition framework? If so, how did the IOD become involved?

With regard to the "Advisory Taskforce" (p.3) to have been established by 2-15-15, who is and which organizations are involved in determining who is to be invited? What are the guiding determinants of who will be invited to participate on the Advisory Taskforce? How were families with members who experience disabilities given notice that they ought to seek out a nomination or invitation? Were all the key stakeholder organizations notified that nominations to the Advisory Taskforce were welcome? In part, this lack of transparency doesn't lend to building trust that the process is open to substantive participation by key stakeholders (organizations or individuals) or their feedback.

Which leads to a second area of concern regarding substantive participation of key stakeholders. Specifically, has the Transition Framework team committed to inviting a person who experiences what is commonly referred to as an intellectual disability to participate on the Advisory Taskforce? I strongly believe that it is critical such a person participate and be provided appropriate supports to make meaningful contributions.

Finally, I offer to serve on the Advisory Taskforce. Currently, I am a NH LEND fellow at the Institute on Disability at UNH and am a parent advocate for my 19 year old son, Forrest, who is a person with Trisomy 21. Additional information is available upon request.

Thank you very much,

Lisa D. Beaudoin

