
From: Laura Cordes <Laura.Cordes@meacsp.org>
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2022 11:48 AM
To: Caswell, Lynne
Cc: Broome, Anna; Jennifer Putnam
Subject: Re: Task Force Meeting

This message originates from outside the Maine Legislature.

Hi Lynne,

It was nice to connect with you by phone on Friday about the work of the task force and the meeting tomorrow.

Our understanding is that members of the task force expanded their inquiry beyond traditional health care providers and that they wish to know whether violence against the network of staff who work with people with disabilities in home and community settings as well as in ICFs, is a problem.

As we discussed, providers have not identified violence against their staff as a statewide problem nor have we surveyed and tracked such incidences as an association. We do not have data to share.

In regard to any data that may be available, individual provider agencies report *all* worker injuries through their worker comp systems. I believe DOL has shared that information in aggregate. The most common injuries are sprains and pulls that happen in the course of providing personal physical support - lifts and pivots - to help someone in the course of performing daily activities and/or meeting basic needs.

If a staff member is injured in the course of supporting a client, it is more often than not, an injury that occurs in the course of intervening to prevent the client from harming themselves or intervening in a harmful behavior(s) that a client may use to communicate with the world, not due to an act of violence directed at the staff member.

ICF providers, which follow both Federal and MaineCare rules, as well as providers of MaineCare Home and Community Based Services, are required to report injuries of staff by a person with a disability they support in the state's online system as a "reportable event" when the injury is caused by a behavior which is not included in the person's Behavior Support Plan.

In a separate email, I will provide a description of the training that staff in ICFs and Residential Group Homes receive to support positive behaviors, minimize harm, and de-escalation and crisis prevention.

Additionally, we were asked to provide information regarding patients awaiting placement.

Jennifer Putnam, Executive Director of Waban, and MACSP Board Member will join the meeting tomorrow to speak to the committee about circumstances in which a residential group home provider who is supporting someone who is hospitalized may not be able to maintain support for them.

You might recall that she spoke this Spring in the work session on LD 1574 Resolve, To Ensure Support for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism with High Behavioral Need about the staffing levels and increased rate that is needed to ensure that people with disabilities who have high and complex behaviors have the support they need and deserve.

I have copied her here (jputnam@waban.org), shared the zoom registration link, and let her know that she is scheduled to follow Bill and Brenda and that someone from the mental health and substance use disorder community may follow her.

Thank you,
Laura

Laura Cordes
she/her/hers