The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is responsible for the planning, development and administration of complete, comprehensive and integrated statewide services for persons with intellectual disability (as defined by CGS 1-1g) and persons medically diagnosed as having Prader-Willi Syndrome (verified by genetic testing).

DDS has several types of supports/programs available to children under 21 years
- Provided voluntarily, not entitlement services
- Often in concert with sister agencies (e.g. Behavioral Services Program, formerly Voluntary Services Program from DCF)

Eligibility
- DDS Eligibility unit will find eligible children with documented indication of developmental delay as “undetermined” beginning at 3 years
- Children redetermined ~8 years
Assessment of Need

- Families have access to Helpline Case Managers who can help assess needs and refer to appropriate services.
- Level of Need assessments only completed for child when requesting annualized funded services.
- DDS supports are provided on a priority basis and within available appropriations.
- Each of DDS’s three regions has a Planning and Resource Allocation Team (PRAT) charged with ensuring that all individuals are treated fairly and equitably in the allocation of resources. Available funding is currently prioritized for:
  - Individuals who are determined to have an emergency need for services by PRAT.
  - Individuals who have an immediate Protective Service Plan in place and for whom the regional director, or his designee, has determined that additional resources are necessary.
  - Individuals enrolled on a Medicaid waiver with unmet health and safety needs for whom PRAT has determined that additional resources are necessary.
Services - General

- Services offered throughout lifespan, including to children under 21 years
- **Helpline Case Managers**
  - For individuals without an assigned Case Manager
  - Connect families with appropriate resources (e.g. DDS programs, community resources, DSS, benefits/entitlements)
- **Family Support Grants**
  - Families may apply for up to $5,000 for one-time expenses, up to twice per year
  - Awarded based on health/safety needs and pending funding availability within appropriation
- **Respite**
  - Families may request overnight weekend stays at one of ten DDS public respite centers
  - Scheduled based upon family need, appropriate peer groupings, availability of dates and space, and existing resources
  - 184 children accessed in FY16
- **Individual/Family Support Teams**
  - Available for temporary emergency assistance to families
  - Average of just over 70 children served per quarter in FY16
Services - Targeted

- Services specific to children through age 20 (age out at 21 years)
- **Education Liaisons**
  - Curriculum based educational supports to assist families to work with schools
  - Support parent advocacy efforts around education
- **Transition Advisors**
  - Provide support, consultation and resource information to assist the student through the transition years out of secondary education and into employment
- **Case Management**
  - If a child has an annualized funded service, they are assigned a Case Manager (separate from Helpline Case Managers)
- **Behavioral Services Program**
  - Formerly, Voluntary Services Program, transferred from DCF
  - Eligibility: co-occurring intellectual disability and mental health disorder (DSM-5)
  - Primarily In-Home Supports
  - Currently serving: 420
  - Current Wait List: ~30
Funding & Quality Monitoring

• Children accessing annualized funded supports are typically enrolled in waivers – funded through Medicaid
• Non-annualized funded supports are typically state-funded only (e.g. Family Support Grants, Individual and Family Support Teams, etc.)
• Supervisors and protocols in place for all DDS staff acting in consultative roles (e.g. Case Managers, Education Liaisons, Transition Advisors, Individual and Family Support Team workers)
• Family Support Grants are audited and require documentation from families
• Out of home residential placements are licensed and/or quality monitored
  • DDS quality monitors DDS qualified provider placements
  • DDS does not directly quality monitor DCF homes, residential schools, out of state placements, etc.
Interagency Agreements

- MOU with DSS to designate DDS as operating agency for waivers
- Relationship with DORS to connect students transitioning out of secondary education
- MOU with DCF to govern transfer of Behavioral (Voluntary) Services Program
Challenges

• Limited resources in a new economic reality
  • BSP account reduced significantly in recent years
  • PS reductions affect ability to offer more services through Helpline Case Managers, Education Liaisons, Transition Advisors, etc.

• Defining responsibilities of children potentially involved with multiple state agencies

• Many separate school systems

• Migrating from creation of specialized programs to connecting to community resources
Lifespan Planning

Special Needs Planning Time Line

Traditional Planning Time Line