

**Questions for Commissioner Ricker Hamilton
for the April 9, 2018 Meeting of the Maine Coalition for Housing and Quality Services**

Thank you for taking time to meet with us!

How can the Coalition be a useful resource for the Department?

How can we get a regular, consistent opportunity to have a conversation and interactive dialogue with the Department?

Parents, providers, and individuals get a lot out of the collaborative information sharing at Coalition meetings; how can we better include the Department in that process?

The Section 28 waitlist is currently inaccessible, and has been for the past month and a half. There's already a huge deficit in the ability to provide Section 28 services; this has halted an already difficult process. Any information at all would be helpful.

Does the Department have any ideas as to how we can address affordable housing, and how the system of care can follow that housing?

Is there a way in which the system can be oriented so people can choose housing and then wrap services around them?

Can we collaboratively work on transportation alternatives so that it can be accessed safely, effectively, and efficiently?

How could families and providers be more effective partners with the Department?

Can you talk about some ways in which the Department is or is looking to measure service effectiveness?

How useful is the National Core Indicator data that the state receives, and how does it affect services and service delivery planning?

Is the Department aware that police intervention is being used as a method to resolve individual problems, specifically in group homes?

Do you think that the recommendation from the OIG report to have a stakeholder group is a good idea?

People with ID/DD have cognitive challenges that make it even more difficult to comprehend complex documents; have you thought about putting your documents into plain-language so that they are more accessible for individuals for whom services are designed and created?

Does the Department have upcoming trainings for parents and individuals receiving services? What questions do you have for us?

We know a lot of work has been done with the DOE, OCFs, and OADS, regarding transition; what work is presently being done on this?

The Coalition created a Blueprint for Effective Transition involving a lengthy, thoughtful process with a comprehensive group of stakeholders. The Department seemed to embrace this document. Can you tell us how the Department is utilizing that document in its planning?

We know in the past the Developmental Services Stakeholder Continuum of Care document was something that at one time you found useful. The Department has implemented some significant portions of this. How do you think currently it could be most useful, and what if any challenges to its full implementation exist?

How could families more effectively have a voice with the Department, to inform them of current challenges, and what the Department is doing well?

Could the Department provide the following information, on a regular basis (monthly or quarterly as indicated below):

- Waitlist numbers – The total number of people on the Section 21 waitlist, including the breakdown of Priority 1, 2, and 3; and the total number of people on the Section 29 waitlist, if applicable, including the number of people in the queue for Section 29.
- The number of people going on and off the Section 21, Priority 1 on a quarterly basis.