

House Legislative Oversight Committee  
Request for Information about Committee Recommendations, 2019

Agency Responding	Disabilities and Special Needs, Department of
Submission Date	10/2/2019

Recommendation Number	Recommendations to Agency and Implementation Notes on File with Legislative Oversight Committee as of August 2019	Status of Implementation	Actual or Anticipated Date of 100% Completion	Estimated Net Financial Savings, Realized or Anticipated, in the 5 Years Following Implementation*	Agency Responses		
					Non-Financial Benefits Realized or Anticipated from Implementing Recommendation	Non-Financial Drawbacks Realized or Anticipated from Implementing Recommendation	Additional Comments (optional)
Report Rec #01	AGENCY: Seek funding to create a grant program or incentives for providers to expand the pool of direct care professionals through shadowing programs, recognition programs, grassroots campaigns and training efforts designed to expand awareness about the profession and encourage greater participation by potential employees, specifically students preparing to graduate high school	In Progress	June 2020--- Direct Support Personnel (DSP) Initial Certification program created, operationalized, and will graduate first class of high school students from pilot sites in two South Carolina High Schools with initial DSP Certification in June 2020. Statewide implementation to interested area high schools by June 2022.	Yes, but not quantifiably discernable.	By providing training to area high school students, we will increase the pool of students DSP trained from a baseline of 0 students in 2019 to 18 graduates by 2020 in two SC pilot sites. This program will be expanded to all interested high schools statewide, creating a substantial pool of candidates for hiring by 2022. These students all plan to enter into the field of health care, so this increased knowledge of strategies in supporting individuals with disabilities will reach further than just DDSN provider agencies. In addition to reducing onboarding costs for DDSN providers hiring these graduates, these young South Carolinians have a better understanding of the career of a DSP prior to entering the profession which will reduce turnover. Reduction in turnover yields saving on costs such as overtime pay due to lack of appropriate staff and re-training costs. The largest benefit is better quality care for our individuals as we are able to attract and retain well trained employees who impact the daily lives of the people we support.	This program will require support from state level DDSN staff to assure that pilot sites are providing high quality training. DDSN agency providers will incur additional responsibility for on-site supervision of DSP Intern students to meet the practicum experience hours and may need to share training resources with their local school districts to support student learners.	This program has been positively received by the local pilot school sites. The issuing of the DSP credential to students from these high schools also provides benefits to the local school districts in improved student outcome measures.
Report Rec #03	AGENCY: Further develop training for new Commissioners, including expanded onboarding and continuing education	Complete	5/15/2019	Yes, but not quantifiably discernable.	DDSN's new personalized onboarding process of emphasizing numerous 1:1 briefings by the State Director accelerates the new Commissioner's knowledge, understanding, and comfort level to be in a position to better engage, direct, and lead executive staff. This process also permits the new Commissioner to make better informed decisions within a DDSN's highly complex operations with many stakeholders.	None	DDSN's has completed its in-house new Commissioner training. It should be noted the General Assembly introduced legislation in the Spring 2019 to enhance Commissioner qualifications and training requirements. This legislation was still pending at the end of session. This pending legislation is expected to be pursued during the legislative session starting in January 2020.
Report Rec #04	AGENCY (SPECIFICALLY, THE COMMISSION): Undertake a complete review of the agency's regulatory environment, including existing and needed regulations. If that review reveals regulations that should be promulgated, amended, or repealed, the Commission should proceed through the procedures in Title 1, Chapter 23 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, related to state agency rulemaking	Complete	2/20/2019	None	After DDSN's regulatory review (DDSN Memo Dated 2/20/2019), four areas were identified for new regulations: Eligibility; Research Protocols; Licenses for Community Based housing for Adults; and Appeals of state funded services. The regulation process increases citizen input into developing regulations impacting their lives, as well as increases transparency/accessibility governing rules citizen accessibility/transparency.	None	Using regulations versus policy takes more time to implement and change, but it is offset by striving to meet legislative intent of the benefits of regulations--citizen input, accessibility, and transparency.