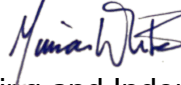


## MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate Committee on Health and Welfare

CC: House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Monica White, Commissioner   
Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL)

DATE: January 26, 2023

RE: H.1 – rationale for DAIL request to edit date for legislative input from  
2/1/2023 to 2/1/2024

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[H.1 of 2023, An act relating to legislative oversight of payment reform and conflict-free case management for developmental disability services](#), originally included the date of February 1, 2023, to share proposed policy changes for legislative input. The Senate Health and Welfare Committee has requested an explanation as to why the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living (DAIL) recommended an amended date of February 1, 2024. This memo explains why a 2024 timeline will be more informative and result in a more productive discussion than if it were done in 2023.

### Conflict-Free Case Management

The conflict-free case management project is targeting May of 2025 as the first month of implementing solutions to comply with federal conflict of interest requirements. The Agency of Human Services (AHS) is working in partnership with its technical assistance contractor, Health Management Associates, on a project schedule of deliverables that lead the State towards this May 2025 implementation date. An assessment of the current HCBS system is underway now with a report due this April 2023. With this information, AHS will assess compliance options for all five home and community-based services programs in the summer and engage with stakeholders through various means to solicit recommendations and feedback on options. This work will inform the recommendations report. The recommendations report will be available by January 2024. This document will include information on the policy changes requested in H.1.

### Payment Reform

Currently, the payment reform initiative is working on analyzing data from a sample of Supports Intensity Scale- Adults (SIS-A) assessments, which will help identify the different levels of support that are needed for Vermonters receiving Developmental Services. Developing the levels of support will include stakeholder input and will take several months to finalize, with anticipated completion of this work in the spring of 2023. Also, with the assistance of stakeholders, DAIL is developing a document and process to bring more context into the assessment and person-centered planning processes.

The additional context may help inform consumers' level of support and future service budget, but the department won't be able to assess the impact until the context work is complete, which DAIL plans to accomplish this summer. Until these key items are completed, DAIL will not be able to begin drafting detailed payment models which will inform future policy changes.

An amended date of February 2024 will allow DAIL to present a more encompassing proposal for future changes and will yield more meaningful legislative input. We are, as always, happy to have further discussion if helpful. Thank you.