

DSS Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory Council (ASDAC)
Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2017

Members Present: Judy Dowd Representative (Shelly Maynes), Marcia Eckard, Bill Halsey, Representative Catherine Abercrombie, Zachary Laudano, James Loomis, Donyale Pina Aileen McKenna, John Molteni, Nikki Richer, Lois Rosenwald, Doriana Vicedomini, Lynn Ricci, Ann Milanese, John Pelegano, Kari Sassu

Others Present: Amy Dumont, Michael Blaszk

Members Absent: Ann Gionet, Kathy Marchione, Carole Ryan-Hanlon, Siobhan Morgan, Yana Razumnaya

Call to Order: 10:08am

Welcome and Introduction by Bill Halsey

No Public Comments

Approval of 6/21/2017 Meeting Minutes –
Motion to Approve by Representative Abercrombie
Second by John Molteni.

Nominations Update:

Department of Higher Education - Dr.Kari Sassu was unanimous voted onto the Council to replace Ruth Erin. Dr. Sassu CV is available upon request.

Tri-Chair Nomination: John Molteni was submitted to the nominating committee. Bill Halsey requests any other names to be submitted for consideration. The committee is ready to meet.

Discussion of proposed by-laws amendments by Bill Halsey

- Clean up of the red line version
- Add Child Advocate
- Clarification on where documents will be housed

Brief discussion regarding the process to get individuals in the seats on the Council.
Some resolutions could be:

- Streamline current process
- Representative Abercrombie does not feel the old process should be the current process as it relates to submittal (application), review, vote and finally approval from Legislative.
- Brainstorm around if the division should take a new direction vs. how the process was years ago.

- Simplify application process for seats on the council. Representative Abercrombie offered to work on a simplified application process.
- Suggestion is to red-line current version to simplify, modify language and to remove elected officials. Suggestion is once red-line version is accepted with edits to forward via email for Council review and vote in efforts to streamline the process. The goal is to fill seats in a robust manner.
- Ensure the entire spectrum are represented and captured to reflect all perspectives and levels of participants i.e. low, medium, high functioning.
- Question was raised regarding the Council termination in 2018? The response was Bill Halsey will work with Representative Abercrombie to extend date and it will reflect in the final by-laws.
- A brief history of the autism council was provided.
- Bill made clarity of the division that it does encompass a wide spectrum under the State Plan.
- Revised by-laws were discussed and the following changes were approved:
 - Change references from DDS to DSS
 - Adding Child Advocate
 - Change language related to chairs to say “at least two”

Revised by-laws were approved.

Update on RFP funds by Bill Halsey

- No budget as of today.
- Bill received permission from DSS to submit leftover funds from last fiscal year of the Feasibility Study in the amount of \$405,000. Funds will be available from 12/1/17 to 6/30/18.
- There are other funds that are questionable. \$500,000 in General Funds and \$750,000 in Tobacco Settlement Funds.
- Bill suggested that a special meeting would need to reconvene once budget is passed to move to next step, the procurement process, recommendations and determining priorities of where the funds should go.
- There is a procurement document ready to go once green light is received.

Discussion:

- Representative Abercrombie noted that the funds in the proposed budget are considerably less than \$405,000 that was submitted to OPM. She will look into the indifference.
- Question was raised regarding the number of existing projects from last year that the funds could possibly go towards. The response is currently (3).
- Quality vs. Quantity was raised in regards to the funding and how much would be allocated. Examples were the possibility of pilot projects or procurement of range of \$ for the previous projects to extend those efforts.

- A request for Amy or representative to provide quarterly updates at the ASDAC meetings to share awareness, information on services, changes, accountability, results, etc.
- A suggestion was to bring a DSS fiscal representative or dashboard to be present at Council meetings for further clarification as to dollar amounts in the waiver.

Public Hearing Announcement by Amy Dumont

- Amy Dumont announced there is a scheduled hearing regarding the autism waiver on September 22, 2017 at 1:00pm at LOB 2E.
- Rep. Abercrombie referenced one change in original application. Community Companion Homes have been removed but Live-in Companion Services will remain per DSS and OPM.
- There is a change from \$60,000 to \$50,000 cap per person. Amy referenced reduced amount/service is not expected to jeopardize families.
- There are no funds to add new individuals to the waiver. Once an individual is off the program another individual from the waitlist is added. The process of looking at priorities is underway.

New Business by Representative Abercrombie:

- Introduced a technology initiative for kids/individuals on the spectrum. Seeking interest from the Council or any individuals/professionals that would be interested in joining the taskforce committee.
- Water safety program- Involved with women, children and seniors taskforce.
- Looking for input from the Council regarding context, resources, collaborative efforts to engage schools, community awareness etc..

Announcements:

- Birth to 3 autism services guidelines to provide services for kids on the spectrum draft will be out for public comment on October 1, 2017.
- Assistive Technology Forum to be held at LOB since date changed to November 14, 2017. This initiative is to educate parents, politicians, and general public on how to help gain independence by using technology devices.
- October is Fire Safety Month.
- Autism Speaks' yearly forum specific to transition scheduled for February 3, 2018 @ Masonic Care, Wallingford. Expecting approx. 100 parents to attend.
- Birth to 3 fee for service to move to 11/1/17 if CMS approves the Autism Waiver.
- ASRC is having its annual resource fair at the Oakdale Theatre Complex in Wallingford on 11/4/17.
- January 2018 - There will be a Public Act mandating all First Responders to be trained in water safety in collaboration with Alec Foundation.
- Bill is waiting on confirmation to announce serving 1,000 children on Medicaid State Plan.

Adjournment: 11:30am

Next Meeting: **Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 10:00am**

Legislative Office Building
Room 2A