

DSS Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory Council (ASDAC)
Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2017

Members Present: Representative Catherine Abercrombie, Judy Dowd, Marcia Eckerd, Ruth Eren, Bill Halsey, Zachary Laudano, Beth Leslie, Jim Loomis, Sara Lourie, Kathy Marchione, Aileen McKenna, Siobhan Morgan, Yana Razumnaya, Nikki Richer, Lois Rosenwald, Doriana Vicedomini

Others Present: Kathy Bruni, Amy Dumont

Members Absent: Ann Gionet, John Molteni, Lynn Ricci, Isabelina Rodriguez, Carole Ryan-Hanlon

Call to Order: 10:03am

Welcome and Introduction by Bill Halsey

Introduction of Amy Dumont, DSS Program Manager

Public Comment

Andrew Arboe displayed interest in becoming a member of ASDAC

Review and Approval of Minutes from 10/26/2016:

Motion to approve by Doriana Vicedomini, seconded by Yana Razumnaya.

Discussion of By-laws edits:

- Modifying DDS references to DSS
- Adding Office of Early Childhood
- Revised by-laws will be distributed via email
- PNA will be closing. Bylaws to be updated.
- Proposal to meet every two months

Discussion for need of additional Co-Chairs:

- Ruth Eren and Yana Razumnaya
- Motion for tri-chair (or 2 or more chairs) by Jim Loomis, seconded by Judy Dowd

Discussion of council vacancies:

- 2 parents of children vacancies
- 1 parent of adult child vacancy
- 1 physician vacancy
- Interested candidates should send emails of interest with biographies to Bill Halsey William.Halsey@ct.gov, Yana Razumnaya yrazumnaya@gmail.com, or Ruth Eren eren1@southernct.edu.

Presentations

Social and Recreational Activities for Individuals with ASD

Presented by Autism Services Resources CT, Carol Barans, Dr. Ruth Eren, Doreen Tilton, Andrew Arboe (see attached presentation materials)

Year End Report

- Peer Mentoring
 - Promotion of successful models
- Short-Term Community Mentors
 - One on One community mentors designed to promote independent integration into the community
- Adult Social Opportunities
 - Create new social groups
 - Promote participation in existing community groups
- Challenges
 - Overarching challenge
- Surveying districts
 - Unreturned calls
 - No one person may know of all district programs

Presentation of Video and Peer Mentor Overview

- Parent Groups

Peer Mentoring Pilot Report (SCSU & Dr. Loomis)

- Peer Mentoring in Middle & High School Settings
- Potential benefits of a peer mentor program
- Current research in support of peer mentoring
- Selection of the peer mentoring model & development of program
- Program & Tools
- Content Validity Review Panel
- District Selection
- Implementation
- Training Outcomes
- Challenges – Geographical travel limitations, Mentees, Membership fees
- Pre/Post Results
- Recommendation of Pilot 2
- Successes
 - Success story of Andrew Arbo
- Possible Future Activities

Presentation: Suffield Public Schools In-Home Behavioral Intervention Pilot Program

Presented by Jill Caron, Parent, Diane Juzba, M.Ed., BCBA; Creative Interventions, Wendy LaMontagne, Director, Suffield Parks and Recreation, Lori O'Neil, Suffield School Social Worker, Suzanne Wosko, Parent, Doriana Vicedomini, Parent Liaison
(see attached presentation materials)

- Rationale
- Over-view
- Agency Specific Services
 - School Supports
 - In-Home Supports
 - Community Supports
- Parent Perspectives
- Wrap Around Services
- Collaboration
- Next Steps

Workgroup Discussion (sign-ups)

- Housing
- Transportation
- Employment/Vocational Services
- Training, Workforce Development

Retreat to Discuss:

- Funding
- Goals of council
- What worked? What didn't?
- Commitment to meetings
- Feasibility study
- Frequency of Meetings
- Doodle poll to be sent

Dates to Remember:

- March 13, 2017 – Autism Informational Forum
- April 12, 2017 – Autism Awareness Day

Adjournment 12:12pm

Next Meeting: **Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at 10:00am**

All meetings are held at:
Legislative Office Building