

DSS Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory Council (ASDAC)
Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2021
(Virtual Meeting)

Members Present: Jennifer Abbatemarco, Judy Dowd, Amy Dumont, Marcia Eckerd, Melissa Gagne, Ann Gionet, Bryan Klimkiewicz, Andrew Komarow, Julie McKenna representing Mickey Kramer, Jim Loomis, Kathy Marchione, Jimnahs Miller, Donyale Pina, Lynn Ricci, Carole Ryan-Hanlon, Yana Razumnaya, Lois Rosenwald, Kari Sassu, Tammy Venenga, Doriana Vicedomini

Members Absent: Representative Cathy Abercrombie, Stephen Byers, Jill Caron, Koleen Kerski, Yana Razumnaya, Julie Wolf

Others:

Call to Order: 10:02am

Welcome and Roll Call

Motion to approve July 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes was approved by Doriana Vicedomini and seconded by Lynn Ricci

Introduction of Jennifer Cavallaro as Director of Community Options and Discussion

- Jennifer joined DSS in June of 2021
- Bill Halsey is the intern Medical Director
- Questions for Jennifer invited
- How does the transition of Bill and Jennifer affect the unit?
- Filling positions
- Open communication
- Resource Specialists
- Lisa can help field questions to proper contacts
- Case Managers, Allison, Amy and Michael
- Case Manager Supervisor position is open and hope to fill
- Waiting upon approval for 2 additional Case Manager positions
- 2 waiver positions available
- Jennifer's roll – Oversight over all the waivers, reporting to CMS, will attend as many ASDAC meetings as she can

- Works in partnership with Amy Dumont
- Bill Halsey still has roll of State Medicaid with Beacon working closely with Jennifer Krom at this time
- Bill Halsey will still handle
- Housing Committee will still be with Bill Halsey
- Provider issues will be sent to Lisa Bonetti and then forwarded to the appropriate contact
- Turnaround is rather quick on our end

Procurement/RFP Update by Amy Dumont:

- 7/28/2021 Bill sent RFP/RFA – request for application to Amy Dumont
- 8/31 Contract person came back with questions
- 9/7/2021 it was sent back
- Once released, it will be released and posted for 7 weeks
- Going in the right direction

ASD Waiver Update by Amy Dumont:

- 1912 individuals on the autism waitlist
- 124 clients currently receiving services
- DSS Resource Specialists, Cathy Calway and Nathaniel Calway have many Resource Presentations and events lined up with school systems. Cathy Calway shared with Council
- Amy provided timeline overview of the RFP process. On 7/28/21 Bill sent RFP, Request for Application to Amy for review. Was sent to contract department in August. 8/31/21 sent back to Contract Department on 8/31. Contract department replied with questions. Sent back to Contract department on 9/7/21. Once released, it is released for 7 weeks
- Roles of DSS Staff were discussed
- Staffing issues were discussed including Case Manager Supervisor position has not been filled as well as additional Case Manager positions will be needed once more funding for slots are approved.
- Bill Halsey has taken on Kate's roll as interim Director
- Beacon questions/concerns will continue to go to Bill Halsey at this time
- Housing Committee will continue to report to Bill Halsey
- Provider issues will go to Lisa Bonetti and will forward to appropriate staff
- Provider agency applications is a multi-step process. Applications go to Lisa Bonetti which are forwarded to Amy Dumont for approval. At this point application process

is referred to QA and then to Gainwell for billing and payment process. Debbie Hockla-Kaba is our relations contact person at Gainwell.

- Individual Providers are credentialed through Beacon Health Options.

Other Business:

- It was decided to start a Marketing workgroup to have discussions on what the DSS Autism Lifespan Waiver and services through Beacon Health Options both have to offer. Lisa will send out email regarding council members who would like to join.
- Lynn Ricci discussed journal article
- Bryan Klimkiewicz is still willing and able to set up a meeting/structure to receive input regarding federal dollars geared to Recovery
- Housing Committee update – Amy James discussed that there has not been much movement. No funding for wrap-around services. Individuals are unable to choose who they would like to live with which is an issue. DSS Autism Lifespan Waiver does not have funding for housing services.
- Melissa Kremmel, Executive Director for CT Family Support Network discussed Housing Roommate matches. Planning on holding a live event
- Discussion of continuing Housing Committee as it was successful. Amy will reach out to Bill Halsey to see if he will continue as the head of this group.
- Provider rate increases were discussed

To Do:

- Lisa Bonetti will send out email for Council Members interested in joining Marketing Group
- Lisa Bonetti will reach out to Bill Halsey and then set up Housing sub-group meeting
- Waiver renewal presentation at next Council meeting
- Jennifer Krom will give update on State Plan

Adjournment: 11:25am

Next Meeting: **Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 10:00am**